GREENES CARDE OF FANCIE.

Wherein the Folly of thoſe carpet Knights *is deciphered, which guiding* their courſe by the compaſs of Cupid, *either daſh their ſhip againſt moſt* dangerous Rocks, or elſe attaine the haven with pain and peril.

Wherein alſo is deſcribed in the perſon of *Gwydonius* a cruell Combate be*tween Nature and Neceſſitie.*

By ROBERT GREEN, Maſter of Art, in *Cambridge.*

At *London* Printed by H. L. for *Mathewe Lownes, and are to be ſolde at his ſhop* in Paules-churchyard 1608.

TO THE RIGHT HONO-

rable, *Edward de Vere* Earle of *Oxenford, Vicount Bulbeck, Lord of Eſcales* and Badleſmire, and Lord great Chamber-*lain of England:* Robert Green *wi-*ſheth long life with increaſe *of Honour.*

THat poor *Caſtilian Frontino* (Right Honourable) being a very vnskilfull Painter, preſented *Alphonſus*, the Prince of Aragon, with a moſt imperfect picture, which the king thankfully accepted, not that hee liked the work, but that he loved the art. The paltering Poet *Cherillus*, dedicated his duncing Poems to that mightie Monarch *Alexander*, ſaying that he knew aſſuredly if *Alexander* would not accept them in that they were not pithie, yet he would not vtterly reject them, in that they had a ſhewe of Poetrie. *Cæſar* oft times praiſed his ſouldiers for their wil, although they wanted skil: and *Cicero* as well commended ſtammering *Lentulus* for his paynfull induſtrie, as learned *Lælius* for his paſſing eloquence. Which conſidered (although wiſdom did wil me not to

straine further then my sleeue would stretch) I thought good to present this imperfect Pamphlet to your Honours protection; hoping your Lordship will deigne to accept the matter in that it seemeth to be prose, though something vnsauorie for want of skill, and take my well meaning for an excuse of my boldnesse, in that my poore will is not in the wane, whatsoever this imperfect work do want. The Emperour *Traian* was never without suters, because so curteously hee would heare every complaint. The Lapidaries continually frequẽted the Court of *Adobrandinus*, because it was his chief studie to search out the nature of stones. All that courted *Atlanta* were hunters, and none sued to *Sapho* but Poets. Whersoeuer *Mecænas* lodgeth, thither no doubt will schollers flocke. And your Honour being a worthie fauourer and fosterer of Learning, hath forced manie through your exquisite vertue, to offer the first fruits of their studie at the shrine of your Lordships curtesie. But though they have waded farre and found mines, and I gadded abroad to get nothing but Mites, yet this I assure my self, that they neuer presented vnto your honor their treasure with a more willing minde, than I do this simple trash: which I hope your Lordship wil so accept. Resting therfore vppon your Honours wonted clemencie, I commit your Lordship to the Almightie.

* *
*

Your Lordships most dutifully to command,
ROBERT GREENE.

TO THE GENTLEMEN Readers, health.

AN blowing vpon an Oten pipe a little homely Muſick, and hearing no man diſpraiſe his ſmall cunning, began both to plaie ſo loud, and ſo long, that they were more wearie in hearing his muſick, than he in ſhewing his skill; till at laſt to clawe him and excuſe themſelues, they ſaid his pipe was out of tune: So Gentlemen, becauſe I haue before time raſhly reacht above my pitch, and yet your curteſie ſuch as no man hath accuſed me, I haue once a gain aduentured vpon your patience; but (I doubt) ſo farre, as to be rid of my follie, you will at the laſt ſay, as *Auguſtus* ſayde to the Grecian, that gave him oft times many rude verſes: Thou haſt need (quoth hee) reward mee well; for I take more paines to read thy works, than thou to write them. But yet willing to abide his quip, becauſe I may counteruaile it with your former curteſie, I put my ſelfe to your patience, and commit you to the Almighty.

Farewell.

* *
*

Robert Greene.

AD LECTOREM
in laudem Authoris.

PVllulat en ſtirpi ſimilis ſpecioſa propago
Aureoluſq; novo revireſcit ramus amoris
Vere: (tuo verè iam VERE dicandus honori:)
Iſta ſalus Iuueni, Comiti ſit gloria noſſe,
Accepiſſe decus: Comites vbi paſſibus æquis
Ales amor virtuſq; ſagax decurrere nôrunt.
Ventilat iſte faces, reſtinguit at illa furentes
Tædas. Nec tædet Pueri ſic tædia cæci
Fallere, qui cæcis conuoluit viſcera flammis.
Ergo refer grates qui deuitare cupiſti
Spumoſos Veneris fluctus, ſcopuloſq; minaces
Qui fragilem tumidis cymbam merſiſſe procellis
Poſſent. Hâc iter eſt, hâc dirige, tutior ibis.

Richardus Portingtonus.

THE CARDE OF FANCIE.

There dwelled in the City of Mitylene, a certaine Duke called Clerophontes, who through his prowesse in all martial exploits wared so proud and tyrannous, using such merciless cruelties to his forraigne enemies, and such modlesse rigor to his native Citizens, that it was doubtfull whether hee was more feared of his foes for his cruelties, or hated of his friends for his tyrannie: yet as the worst weed springeth up more brauely then the wholsommest hearbe, and as the crooked'st tree is commonly laden with most fruite, so this rigorous duke was so fauoured and fostered vp by fortune, his estate being so established with honor, & so beautified with wealth, so decked with the Diadem of dignity, and endued with fortunate prosperity, hauing in warres such happie successe against his foes, and in peace such dutifull reuerence of his friends, (although more for feare than fauour) as he seemed to want nothing that either fortune or the fates could allow him, if one onely sore which bred his sorrowe, could haue been salued. But this griefe so galled his conscience, and this cursed care so cumbred his minde, that his happinesse was greatly surcharged with heauinesse, to see the cause of his care could by no meanes be cured. For this Clerophontes, was indued with two children, the one a daughter named Lewcippa, and the other a sonne called Gwydonius: this Lewcippa, was so perfect in the com-

plexion

plexion of her bodie, and so pure in the constitution of her minde, so adorned with outward beautie, and endued with inward bountie, so polished with rare vertues and exquisite qualities, as shée seemed a seemly Venus for her beautie, and a second Vesta, for her virginitie: yea, Nature and the gods had so bountifully bestowed their gifts vpon her, as fame her selfe was doubtful whether she should make greater report of her excellent vertue, or exquisite beautie. But his sonne Gwydonius, was so contrarie to his sister Lewcippa, (though not in the state of his bodie, yet in the state of his mind) as it made al men marualle how two such contrarie stemmes could spring out of the self same sleeke: His personage indéed was so comely, his feature so well framed, each limb so perfectly couched, his face so fair, and his countenance so amiable, as he seemed a heauenly creature in a mortall carcasse.

But his minde was so blemished with detestable qualities, and so spotted with the staine of voluptuousnesse, that hee was not so much to bee commended for the proportion of his bodie, as to bee condemned for the imperfection of his minde. Hee was so endued with vanitie, and so imbrued with vice, so nursed vp in wantonnesse, and so nusled vp in wilfulnesse, so carelesse to obserue his fathers commaund, and so retchlesse to regard his counsell, that neither the dread of Gods wrath, nor the feare of his fathers displeasure, could driue him to desist from his detestable kinde of liuing. Nay, there was no fact so filthy, which hée would not commit, no mischiefe so monstrous, which hée would not enterprise: no danger so desperate, which hée woulde not aduenture: no perill so fearefull, which hée would not performe: nor no action so diuelish, which hée would not execute. So immodest in his manners, so rude in his gestures, yea and so prodigall in his expences, as mines of golde were not able to maintaine such wastefull prodigalitie. This loathsom life of Gwydonius, was such a cutting corasiue to his Fathers carefull conscience,

and

and ſuch a hapleſſe clog to his braue hart, that no ioy could make him merry any ioy, no mirth could make him merry, no proſperity could make him pleaſant: but abandoning all delight, auoiding all companie, he ſpent his deiected daies in dumps and dolors, which he vttered in theſe words.

NOw (quoth hée) I proue by experience, the ſaying of Sophocles to be true, that the man which hath many children ſhall neuer liue without ſome mirth, nor die without ſome ſorrow: for if they be vertuous, he ſhall haue cauſe whereof to reioyce, if vicious, wherefore to be ſad: which ſaying I trie performed in my ſelfe: for as I haue one child which delights me with her vertue, ſo I haue another that deſpights me with his vanity, as the one by vtile things me ioy, ſo the other by diſobedience breeds my anoy: yea as the one is a comfort to my minde, ſo the other is a fretting corſiue to my heart: for what griefe is there more griping, what pain more pinching, what croſſe more cumberſome, what plague more pernitious, yea, what trouble can torment me worſe, then to ſée my ſonne, mine heir, the inheritor of my Dukedom, which ſhould be the pillar of my parentage, to conſume his time in royſting and ryot, in ſpending and ſpoiling, in ſwearing and ſwaſhing, & in following wilfully the furie of his owne rantike fancie. Alas, moſt miſerable and lamentable caſe, would to God the deſtinies had decreed his death in the ſwadling clouts, or that the fates had preſcribed his death in his infancie. Oh that the date of his birth had bin the date of his buriall, or that by ſome ſmiller ſtorme of fortune he had bin ſtifled on his mothers knées, ſo that his vntimely death might haue preuented my enſuing ſorrowes, and his future calamities: for I ſée that the young frie will alwaies proue olde frogs, that the crooked twig will proue a crabbed tree, that the ſower bud will neuer be ſweet bloſſome, how that which is bred in the bone will not eaſily out of the fleſh, that he which is careleſſe in youth, will be leſſe carefull in age, that where in prime of

yéares vice raigneth, there in ripe age vanity remaineth. Why Clerophontes, if thou séest the soze, why doest thou not apply the salue? and if thou doest perceiue the mischiefe, why dost not preuent it with medicine? take away the cause & the effect faileth: if Gwydonius be the cause of thy ruth, cut him off betimes, least hee bring thee to ruine: better hadst thou want a Son then neuer want sozrow. Perhaps thou wilt suffer him so long, til he fall sick of the Father, and then hée will not only séek thy lands and liuing, but life and all, if thou preuent not his purpose: yea, and after thy death he will be through his lasciuious life the ouerthrow of thy house, the consumer of thy Dukedome, the wracke of thy Common-weale, and the very man that shall bring the state of Mitylene to mischiefe & miserie. Sith then thy Son is such a sink of sozrowes, in whose life lies hid a loathsome masse of wretched mishaps, cut him off as a graceleſſe graft, vnwoꝛthy to grow out of such a stock. Alas Clerophontes, shalt thou be so vnnaturall as to séek the spoile of thine owne childe, wilt thou bee moze sauage then the brute Beastes in committing such cruelties? no, alas, the least misfortune of our children vooch so moue vs, that as the Spider féeleth if her web bre pricked but with the point of a pinne, so if they bée touched but with the least trouble, we féele the paines thereof with pricking griefe to pinch vs. Why hath not Nature then caused loue to ascend as well as to descend, and placed as dutifull obedience in the childe, as louing affection in the father: and with that he fetcht such a deep sigh, that it was a signe of the extreame sozrowe he conceiued for his sonnes witleſſe folly. But as hée was readie againe to enter into his dolefull discourse, to aggranate his griefe the moze, and increase his care, certaine complaints were brought him by sundry Citizens, of the outragious behauiour of his Sonne Gwydonius, which béeing attentiuely heard he in great choller called for his sonne, against whom hée thundred out such threatning reproaches, laying before his face the misery that would ensue of such reckleſſe mischiefes,

and

and promising that if hee directed not his course by a new compasse, and leuelled his life by a new line, hee would not onely repay his folly with the penalty of the law, but also by consent of his commons, disinherite him of his Dukedome: that Gwydonius, greatly incensed with the seuere censure of his father, broyling with furious rage, sturdily burst forth into these stubborne termes.

SIr, (quoth hee) if Terence his Menedemus were aliue, and heard these your fond and fantasticall reasons, hee would as readily condemn you of crabbednesse, as he accused Chremes of currishnesse: for as he by too much austeritie procured his sonnes mishap, so you by too much seueritie seeke to breed my misfortune. You olde men most iniustly, or rather iniuriously, measure our stapleste mode by your stayed minds, our yong yeares by your hoary haires, our flourishing youth by your withered age, thinking to direct our doings by your doatings, our wils by your wits, our youthfull fancies by your aged affections, & to quench our fierie flames by your dead coales and cinders: yea, supposing that the Leueret should be as skilfull in making of a head, as the olde Hare, that the yong Cubs should allow tapish, as the old Fox, that the yong Frie should as well auoid the net as the old Fish, and that the yong wantons should be as warie as the olde wisards. But this sir, is to make fire frost, to chaunge heate to colde, mirth to mourning, singing to sadnesse, pleasure to paine, and to tye the Ape and the Bear in one tedder. Sith then young trimmes will not bee set on a withered stocke, that the yong twig lieth not vnder the old tree, that the toyish conceits of youth are vnfit for the restie cogitations of age: I mean for your satisfaction and my solace, to depart from the Court, and to spend my dayes in trauell.

Clerophontes no sooner heard this determination of his sonne Gwydonius, but his sorrowe was halfe salued, and his care almost cured, thinking that by trauell hee

ſhould eyther end his life, or amend his lewdneſſe, & therefore both hearthned and haſtened his ſonne in this his new courſe, leaſt delay might breed danger, or time by ſome toy cauſe him turn his tippet, furniſhing & finiſhing all things neceſſarie for his ſonnes iournie: who readie to goe (more willing to trauell, than his father to intreate him) had this friendly farewell giuen him by Clerophontes.

SOnne (quoth hee) there is no greater doubt which doth more deeply diſtreſſe the minde of a young man, then to determine with himſelfe what courſe of life is beſt to take: for there is ſuch a confuſed Chaos of contrarie conceits in yong wits, that whiles they lok for that they cannot like, they are loſt in ſuch an endleſſe labyrinth, as neither choice nor chance can draw me them out to their wiſhed deſires: for ſo many vaines ſo manie vanities: if vertue draweth one way, vice driueth another way: as profit perſwades them, ſo pleaſure prouokes them: as wit weigheth, will wreſteth, if friendes counſell them to take this, fancie forceth them to chooſe that: ſo that deſire ſo long hanges in doubt, as either they chooſe none, or elſe chance on the worſt. But in my opinion, the fitteſt kind of life for a young gentleman to take (who as yet hath not ſubdued the youthfull conceits of fancie, nor made a conqueſt of his will by wit) is to ſpend his time in trauell, wherein hee ſhall finde both pleaſure and profite: yea, and buy that by experience, which otherwiſe with all the treaſure in the world he cannot purchaſe. For what changeth vanity to vertue, ſtaplleſſe wit to ſtaied wiſedome, fond fantaſies to firme affections, but trauell: what repreſſeth the rage of youth, and repreſſeth the witleſſe furie of wanton yéeres, but trauell: what turneth a ſecure life to a carefull liuing, what maketh the fooliſh wiſe, yea, what increaſeth wit and augmenteth skill, but trauell: inſomuch that the fame Vlyſſes wonne, was not by the tenne yéeres he laie at Troy, but by the time he ſpent in trauell. But there is nothing Gwydonius, ſo pre-

cious

cious, which in some respect is not perilous, nor nothing so pleasant which may not be paine full: The finest Golde hath his drosse, the purest wine his lees, the brauest Rose his prickles, each sweete hath his sower, each ioy his annoy, each weale his woe, and euerie delight his danger.

So trauaile, Gwydonius, is a course of life verie pleasant, and yet very perilous, wherein thou maiest practice vertue if thou take heed, or purchase discredit if thou bee carelesse: where thou maiest reape renowne if thou bee vertuous, and gaine reproach if thou be vicious: whereout do spring wisedome and folly, freedome and bondage, treasure and trash, fame and discredit, honour and shame, according to the disposition of him which either vseth it to his profit, or abuseth it to his discommoditie. Sith then thou shalt beare saile in such perilous Straightes, take heede lest thou dash thy Ship against most dangerous Rockes. It is a saying Gwydonius, not so common as true, that he which will heare the Syrens sing, must with Vlysses, tye himselfe to the mast of the ship, least happily he be drowned. Whoso meanes to be a sater to Circes, must take a Preservatine, vnlesse he will be inchanted.

He that will fish for the Torpedo, must annoint his hand with the oyle of Nemphar, least he be charmed, and whoso meaneth to enter combat with vanitie, must first furelie defence himselfe with the target of vertue, vnlesse he meane to be a captiue to care or calamitie. I speake this Gwydonius by experience, which afterward thou shalt know by proofe: for in trauell thou shalt finde such subtill Syrens, as will indanger thee, such sorcering Circes, as will inchaunt thee, such poysoned Torpedos, as will not only charme thy hand, but thy heart, if by my experience and other mens perils thou learne not to beware. First Gwydonius, be not to sumptuous, least thou seem prodigall, nor to couetous, least they count thee a niggard: for by spending in excesse, thou shalt be thought a vaine glorious foole, & by too much sparing, a couetous pelant. Be not wilfull in thy doings,

that they count thée not witleſſe; nor too raſh, that they think thée not dew old of reaſon: be not too merry, that they count thée not immodeſt; nor too ſober, leaſt they call thée ſullen, but ſhew thy ſelf to be an old man for thy grauitie, and a yoong youth for thy actiuitie: ſo ſhall all men haue cauſe to praiſe thee for thy manners, and commend thee for thy modeſtie. Be not too curious Gwydonius, ſ they déem thée not proud, nor too curteous, leaſt they call thée counterfaite. Be a friend to all, and a foe to none, and yet truſt not without tryall, nor commit anie ſecret to a friendly ſtranger, leaſt in too much truſt lie treaſon, & thou be forced by repentance to crie Peccaui. The ſwéteſt Walke is ſower to be taſted, the fineſt Pilles moſt bitter to be chewed, and the flattering friend moſt tickle being tryed: then beware leaſt faire wordes makes fooles fayne, and glozing ſpéeches cauſe Had I wiſt to come too late. Lend not, Gwydonius, a liſtning eare to the alarums of Loue, nor yield not thy frédome to the aſſault of luſt, be not dazeled with the beames of fading beautie, nor daunted with the deſire of euery delicate damſell: for in time ſuch bliſſe will proue but bane, and ſuch delightfull ioy, but deſpightfull annoie. Luſt Gwydonius will proue an enemy to thy purſe, and a foe to thy perſon, a canker to thy minde, and a conſtitue to thy conſcience, a weakner of thy wit, a moleſter of thy minde, a beſotter of thy ſenſes, and finally, a mortall bane to all thy body; ſo that thou ſhalt finde pleaſure the pathway to perdition, & luſting Loue the load ſtone to ruth and ruine. Séek not then Gwydonius, grédily to deuoure that bait, wherein thou knowéſt a hurtfull hooke to bee hidden: frequent not that pleaſure which will turne to thy poyſon, nor couet that companie which will conuert to thy confuſion, leaſt through ſuch folly thou haue cauſe in time to be ſad, and I to be ſorrowfull. Now Gwydonius that thou haſt heard the aduertiſment of a loving Father, follow my aduiſe as a dutiful childe: and the more to bind thée to perform my former precepts, that this my counſaile

be

be not drowned in oblivion, I giue thée this ring of golde wherein is written this sentence, Præmonitus, Præmunitus. A posse pretie for the words, and pithie for the matter, short to be rehearsed, and long to be related; inferring this sense, that he which is forewarned by friendly counsaile of imminent dangers, is forearmed against all future mishap and calamitie, so that he may by forewarning prevent perils if it bee possible, or if by sinister fortune hee cannot eschew them, yethe may beare the Crosse with more patience and lesse griefe. Keepe this Ring Gwydonius carefully, that thou mayest shew thy selfe to respect thy owne case, and regard my counsaile: and in so dooing thou shalt please me, and pleasure thy selfe.

CLerophontes, having thus ended his discourse, embracing his sonne with fatherly affection, and giuing him his blessing, went secretly into his Chamber, the more to couer his griefe which hée conceiued for his sonnes departure: vnwilling his sonne should perceiue by his sorrow how vnfeinedly he both liked and loued him.

WEll: Gwydonius, having taken his leaue of his Father, furnished both with counsaile and coine, with aduise of wisedome and aydes of wealth, passed on his iourney very solemnly, vntill hee was past the bounds of his Fathers Dukedome: and then as merry as might be, he trauelled by the space of seauen weekes without anie residence, vntill he came to a Cittie called Barutta, where (whether hee were delighted with the situation of the place, or drouded with the perswasion of some Parasiticall persons) hée securely settled himselfe by the space of a whole yeare: in which time he so carelesly floated in the seas of voluptuousnesse, and so reckelesly rauenged in licentious and lasciuious libertie, thinking himselfe a peasant if he were not prodigall, counting nothing comely, if not costly, nothing seemely if not sumptuous, vsing such

monstrous excesse in all his actions, that the Citizens of Barutta noted him for a myrrour of immoderate life, and a very patterne of witlesse prodigalitie: yea, his excessiue expences daily so increased, that mines of gold had not bin sufficient to maintaine his pompous magnificence; insomuch, that the Magistrate of Barutta, not only maruelled where hee had coine to counteruaile his expenses, but also began to suspect him eyther for some skilfull Alcumist, or that he had some large commission to take vp those purses that fell into lapse, for want of sufficient defence: whereupon beeing called before the Magistrates and strictly examined what trade hee vsed, why he stayed so long in the Citie, and how hee was able to maintaine so princely a port as he carried: Gwydonius, vnwilling to haue them priuie to his parentage, began to coine a scuse, yet not so cunningly but hee was trapt in his own talk, and so cast in prison, where he lay clogged with care and deuoid of comfort, hauing not so much as one trustie friend, amongst all those trothlesse flatterers which in prosperitie had so frequented his companie: the ingratitude of whom so perplexed his molested mind, as surcharged with sorrow, he burst forth into these tearms.

ALas (quoth hee) now haue I bought that by haplesse experience, which if I had been wise, I might haue got by happy counsell: Now am I taught that with pain and peril, which if selfeloue had not besotted my senses, I might haue learned with profit and pleasure, that in the fairest Sandes is most ficklenesse, out of the brauest Blossome most commonly springeth the worst fruite, that the finest floure seldome hath the best smell, that the most glistering stone hath oftentimes the least vertue, and that in the greatest shew of good will, lyes oft times the smallest effect of friendship, in most flatterie least faith, in the fairest face the falsest heart, in the smoothest tale the smallest truth, & in the sweetest gloses, most sower ingratitude: Yea, I see now

now (quoth he) ẏ in trust lies treason, that fair words make fools fain, and that the state of these fained friends are like to the Marie-gold, which as long as the Sunne shineth openeth her leaues, but with the least cloud beginneth to close, like the Violets in America, which in sommer yeeld an odoriferous smell, and in winter a most pestilent fauour: so these Parasites in prosperitie professe most, but in aduersitie performe least: when Fortune fauoureth, they laugh, when shee frowneth, they lowre: at euery full sea they flourish, but at euery dead Neape they fade: like to the fish Palerna, which being perfectly white in the calme, yet turneth passing black at euery storm: to the trees in ẏ desarts of Affrica, that flourish but while the South winde blowech, or to the Celedonie stone, which retaineth his vertue no longer than it is rubbed with gold.

Sith then Gwydonius (quoth hee) thou findes such falsehood in friendship, and such faithlesse deedes in such paynted speeches, shake off these fawning curs with the flag of defiance, and from henceforth trie ere thou trust I, but (quoth he) it is too late to apply the salue when the fore is incurable, to crie alarum when the Citie is ouerrunne, to seeke for couert when the storme is past, and to take heede of such flattering mates, when alreadie thou art deceiued by such fawning merchaunts: now thou wilt crie Cave when thy coin is consumed, and beware when thy wealth is wracked: when thou hast nothing wherof to take charge, thou wilt be charie, and when follie hath alreadie giuen thee a mate, thou wilt by wisedome seeke to auoide the check: but now thou tryest it true that thy father foretolde thee, that so long thou wouldest be carelesse, as at last repentance would pull thee by the sleeue, and then Had I wist would come too late.

Well Gwydonius, sith that which is once past can neuer be recalled againe, if thou hast by folly made a fault, seek by wisedome to make amendes, and heap not care vppon care, nor adde not griefe to sorrowe, by these pitifull com-

plaintes, but cheere vp thy ſelfe and take heart at graſſe, for the ende of woe is the beginning of weale, and after miſerie alwaies inſueth moſt happie felicity.

Gwydonius hauing thus dolorouſly diſcourſed with himſelfe, remained not aboue ten dayes in priſon, but that the Senate taking pittie of his caſe, and ſeeing no accuſations were inferred againſt him, ſet him free from his purgatory, and gaue him good counſel, that hereafter hee ſhould beware by ſuch witleſſe prodigalitie to incurre ſuch ſuſpicion. Theſeus neuer triumphed more after he had eſcaped the danger of the perillous Labyrinth, than more Gwydonius did when he was ſet free from this pernitious Limbo: now the bitterneſſe of bondage made his freedome ſeeme farre more ſweete, and his danger ſo happily eſcaped, cauſed his delivery ſeem farre more delightfull. Yet he conceiued ſuch diſcourteſie againſt the Citizens, for repaying his liberal good will with ſuch loathſome ingratitude, that the nert morning he departed frō Barutta, not ſtored with too much mony for moleſting his minde, nor ouercharged with coine for cumbering his cōſcience with too much care: but hauing remaining of all his treaſure onely that ring which his father gaue him, trauelled very ſolemnely toward Alexandria.

Where at that time ther raigned a certaine Duke named Orlanio, who was ſo famous and fortunate, for the peaceable gouernment of his Dukedome, adminiſtering iuſtice with ſuch ſincerities, and yet tempering the extreamitie of the law with ſuch lenitie, as hee both gayned the good will of ſtrangers in bearing his vertue, and wonne the harts of his ſubiects in ſeeling his bounty, counting him vnworthy to bear the name of a Soueraigne, which knew not according to deſert, both to cherish and chaſtiſe his ſubiects.

Fortune and the fates willing to place him in the palace of earthly proſperity, endowed him with two children,

the

the one a ſonne named Therſandro, and the other a daughter called Caſtania, either of them ſo adorned with the gifts of Nature, and be ſtuffed with good nurture, as it was hard to knowe whether beautie or vertue helde the ſupremacie. But leaſt by this happie eſtate Orlanio ſhould be to much puffed vp with proſperitie, Fortune ſparing him the mate, yet gaue him a ſlender checke, to warne him from ſecuritie for before his daughter came to the age of fourteene yeares, his wife dyed, leaning him not more ſorrowfull for the loſſe of her whom he moſt intirely loued, than carefull for the well bringing vp of her whom hee ſo dearely liked: Knowing that as his Court was a ſchoole of vertue to ſuch as bridled their mindes with diſcretion, ſo it was a nurſe of vice to thoſe tender yeares that meaſured their willes with wilfull affection, eſteeming libertie as perillous to the ſtate of youth, as precious to the ſtate of age, and that nothing ſo ſoone allureth the minde of a young maide to vanitie, and to paſſe her youth without feare in ſeruitie. Feared with the conſideration of theſe premiſſes, to auoyde the inconueniences that might happen by ſuffering Caſtania to leade her life in lawleſſe libertie, hee thought it beſt to chooſe out ſome vertuous Ladie to keepe her companie, who might direct her courſe by ſo true a compaſſe, and leuel her life by ſo right a line, that although her young yeares were verie apt to be intangled in the traces of vanitie, yet by her counſaile and companie, ſhee might ſtedily tread her ſteps in the traces of vertue: and none he could find more fit for the purpoſe, than a certaine olde widowe, called Madame Melytta, honoured for her vertuous life throughout all Alexandria, who being ſent for to the Court, he ſaluted on this maner.

MAdame Melytta (quoth hee) the report of thy honeſt conditions, and the renowme of thy vertuous qualities are ſuch, as thereby thou haſt not onelie purchaſed great praiſe, but wonne great credit throughout all

the Countrie. Insomuch that, incensed by this thy singular commendation, I haue selected thée as the onely woman to whome I meane to commit my chiefest treasure: I mean, Melytta, my daughter Castania, to whom I will haue thee bee both a companion and a counsellour, hoping thou wilt take such care to traine her vp in vertue, & trace her quite from vice; to winne her minde to honestie, and weane her quite from vanitie, that she in her ripe yeares shall haue cause to thanke thee for thy paines, and I occasion to regard thée as a friend, and reward thee for thy diligence.

First Melytta, see that she leade her life both charily and chastly. Let her not haue her owne will, least shee proue too wilfull: or too much libertie, least shee become too light. The palme tree pressed downe, groweth notwithstanding but too fast. The hearb Spattania, though trodes on, groweth verie tall: and youth although strictly restrained, will proue but too stubburne.

The vessell sauoureth alwayes of that licour wherwith it was first seasoned and the minde retaineth those qualities in age wherein it was trained vp in youth. The tender twig is sooner broken than the strong branch, the yong stem more brittle than the old stocke, the weake bramble shaken with euerie wind, and the wauering will of youth tossed with euerie puffe of vanitie, readie to bee wracked in the waues of wantonnesse, vnlesse it be cunningly guided by some wise and warie Pilot.

Then Melytta, sith youth is so easily entrapped with the alluring traine of foolish delights, and so soone entangled with the trash of pernitious pleasure, suffer not my daughter to passe her time in idlenesse, least happily being taken at discouert, shee become a carelesse captiue to securitie: for when the minde once floateth in the surging seas of idle conceits, then the puffes of voluptuous pleasures and the stifling stormes of vnbrideled fancy, the raging

blasses

blastes of alluring beautie, and the sturdie gale of glozing vanitie, so shake the Shippe of reeklesse youth, that it is dayly in doubt to suffer most dangerous ship wracke. But let her spend her time in reading such auncient authors as may sharpen her wit by their pithie sayings, and learne her wisedome by their perfect sentences. For where nature is vicious, by learning it is amended, and where it is vertuous by skill it is augmented. The stone of secret vertue is of greater price if it be brauely polished, the gold though neuer so pure of it selfe hath the better colour if it be burnished, and the minde though neuer so vertuous, is more noble if it be enriched with the gifts of learning. And Melytta, for recreation sake, let her vse such honest sports as may driue away dumps, least she be too pensiue, and free her minde from foolish conceits, that shee bee not too wanton.

Thus (Madame) as you haue heard my fatherly aduise, so I pray you giue my daughter the like friendly aduertisement; that hereafter she may haue both cause to reuerence me, and to reward thee.

Melytta hauing heard with attentiue heed the minde of Orlanio, conceiued such ioy in this new charge, and such delight in this happy chance, as with cheerefull countenance she repayed him this answere.

SIr (quoth she) although in the largest seas are the forest tempests, in the broadest wairs most boisterous windes, in the highest hilles, most dangerous happes, and in the greatest charge the greatest care: yet the dutie which I owe you as my Soueraigne, and the loue I beare you as a subiect, the care I haue to please you as my Prince, and to pleasure you as a Potentate, the trust you repose in my trueth without sufficient tryall, the confidence you put in my conscience without sure proofe, the curteste your Grace doth shewe me without anie desert, haue so inflamed the forepassed fire of dutifull affection, and so incouraged

me to encounter your Graces curteſie, with willing con-
ſtancie, that there is no hap ſo hard which I woulde not
hazard, no danger ſo deſperate which I woulde not aduen-
ture, no burthen ſo heauie which I would not beare, no pe-
rill ſo huge which I would not paſſe, no charge ſo great,
which both willingly and warily I woulde not performe.
For, ſince it hath pleaſed your Grace to vouchſafe ſo much
of my ſimple calling, as to aſſigne me for a companion for
your daughter Caſtania, I will take ſuch care in the charie
performance of my charge, and indeuour with ſuch dili-
gence both to counſaile & comfort Caſtania, as your Grace
ſhall perceiue my dutie in pleaſing you, and my diligence
in pleaſuring her.

THe Duke hearing the friendly & faithfull proteſtation
of the good Lady Melytta, tolde her that although it
were great trouble for one of her age to frame her ſelf as a
companiõ to ſuch young youth, and that ſome care belonged
to ſuch a charge, yet hee would ſo countermaile her painful
labour with princely liberalitie, that both ſhe and all Alex-
andria ſhould haue cauſe to ſpeak of his bountie.

MElytta, thanking the Duke for ſuch vndeſerued curte-
ſie, ſetting her houſhold affaires in good order, repay-
red to the Court as ſpeedily as might be. But leauing her
with Caſtania, again to Gwydonius: who now being arri-
ued in Alexandria, pinched with pouerty, & diſtreſſed with
want, hauing no coine left wherewith to countermaile his
expences, thought it his beſt courſe, if it were poſſible, to
compaſſe the Dukes ſeruice: repairing therfore to the court
hee had not ſtaied there three dayes before he found fit oppor-
tunitie to offer his ſeruice to Orlanio, whom very dutifull-
ly he ſaluted in this manner.

THe report (right worthie Prince) of your incompara-
ble curteſie and peerleſſe magnanimity is ſo blazed a-

broad

broad throughout all Countries, by the golden trumpe of Fame, that your Grace is not more loued of your subiects which taſt of your liberall bountie, than honoured of ſtrangers, which only heare of your princely vertue. Inſomuch that it hath forced me to leaue my native ſoile, my parents, kindred, and familiar friends, and pilgrimlike to paſſe into a ſtrange Country, to try that by experience heer, which I haue heard by report at home. For it is not (right worthy Sir) the ſtate of your Country that hath allured me (for I deeme Bohemia, wherof I am, no leſſe pleaſant than Alexandria) neither hath want of liuing or hope of gain intiſed me, for I am by birth a Gentleman, and iſſued of ſuch parents as are able with ſufficient patrimonie to maintaine my eſtate: but the deſire, not onely to ſee, but alſo to learne ſuch rare curteſie and vertuous qualities as fame hath reported to be put in practice in your Court, is the onely occaſion of this my iourny. Now if in recompence of this my trauaile, it ſhal pleaſe your Grace to vouchſafe of my ſeruice, I ſhall think my ſelf fully ſatiſfied, and my paine ſufficiently requited.

Orlanio, hearing this dutifull diſcourſe of Gwydonius, marking his manners, and muſing at his modeſtie, noting both his excellent courteſie, and exquiſite beautie, was ſo inflamed with friendly affection toward this young youth, that not only hee accepted of his ſeruice, but alſo preferred him as a companion to his ſonne Therſandro, promiſing that ſince hee had left his Country and Parents for this cauſe, he would ſo countervaile his dutifull deſert with fauour and friendſhip, as he ſhould neuer haue cauſe to accuſe him of ingratitude.

Gwydonius repaying heartie thankes to the Duke for his vndeſerued curteſie, being now brought from woe to weale, from deſpaire to hope, from bale to bliſſe, from care to ſecuritie, from want to wealth, yea, from hellish miſery, to heauenly proſperitie, behaued himſelfe ſo wiſely and warily with ſuch curteſie in converſation, and modeſtie in

manners,

manners, that in short time hee not onely purchased credit and countenance with Orlando, but was most intirely liked and loued of Therlando.

Now, there remained in the Court a young knight, called Signior Valericus, who by chance casting his glancing eies on the glittering beautie of Castania, was so lettered in the snare of fancie, and so entangled with the trap of affection, so perplexed in the Labyrinth of pinching loue, and so inchanted with the charme of Venus Sorcerie, that as the Elephant reioiceth greatly at the sight of a Rose, as the Bird Halciones delighteth to view the feathers of ỹ Phœnix, and as nothing better contenteth a Ro-Buck, than to gaze at a red cloth; so there was no obiect that could allure the wauering eyes of Valericus, as the surpassing beautie of Castanizpea, his only ioye, pleasure, ioy, & delight, was in feeding his fancy with gazing on ỹ Heauenly face of his goddesse. But alas her beautie bred his bane, her lookes his losse, her sight is sorrow, her exquisite perfections, his extreame passions, that as the Ape by seeing the Snaile is infected, as the Leopard falleth in a traunce at the sight of the Locust, as the Cockatrice dyeth with beholding the Chrisolito, so poore Valericus was pinched to the heart with viewing her comely countenance, was griped with galling griefe, and tortured with insupportable torments, by gazing vpon the gallant beauty of so gorgeous a dame: yea, he so framed in his fancie the forme of her face, and so imprinted in his hart the perfection of her person, that the remembrance therof would suffer him to take no rest, but he passed the day in dolour, the night in sorrow, no minute without mourning, no houre without heauinesse, that falling into pensiue passions hee began thus to parle with himselfe.

Why how now Valericus (quoth hee) art thou haunted with some hellish hagge, or possessed with some frantike furie? art thou inchaunted with some magicall charme, or charmed with some bewitching Sorcerie, that so so-dainly

dainly thy minde is perplexed with a thousand sundry passions, alate free, and now fettered, alate swimming in rest, and now sinking in care, erewhile in securitie, and now in captivitie, yea turned from mirth to mourning, from pleasure to paine, from delight to despight, hating thy selfe, and loving her who is the chiefe cause of this thy calamitie. Ah Valericus, hast thou forgot the saying of Propertius, that to loue, howsoeuer it be, is to lose; and to fancie, how charie so euer thy choice be, is to haue an ill chance: for Loue though neuer so fickle is but a Chaos of care; and fancie, though neuer so fortunate, is but a masse of miserie: for if thou enioy the beautie of Venus, thou shalt finde it small vantage: if thou get one as wise as Minerua, thou maiest put thy winnings in thine eye, if as gorgious as Iuno, thy accounts being cast, thy gain shalbe but losse: yea, be she vertuous, be she chast, be she curteous, be she constant, be shee rich, be she renowmed, be shee honest, be shee honourable, yet if thou be wedded to a woman, thinke thou shalt finde in her sufficient vanitie to countervaile her vertue, that thy happinesse will bee matcht with beastinesse, thy quiet with care, thy contentation with veration: that thou shalt sowe seede with sorrowe, and reape thy corne with sadnesse, that thou shalt neuer line without griefe, nor die without Repentance: for in matching with a Wife there are such mischiefes, and in marriage such miseries, that Craterus the Emperour wishing some sinister fortune to happen vpon one of his foes, prayed vnto the gods that hee might bee married in his youth, and die without issue in his age, counting marriage such a cumbersome crosse, and a Wife such a pleasant plague, that he thought his foe could haue no worse torment, than to bee troubled with such noysome trash. Oh Valericus, if the consideration of these premisses bee not sufficient to perswade thee: if the sentence of Propertius cannot quench thy flame, nor the saying of Craterus coole thy fancie, call to minde what miseries, what mischiefes, what woes, what wailings,

what mishaps, what murthers, what care, what calamities haue happened to such, as haue bin besotted with the balefull beautie of women, enioying more care than commoditie, more paine than profite, more cost than comfort, more griefe than good: yea, reaping a tunne of drosse for euery dramm of perfect gold.

What careles inconstancie ruled Eriphila? What currish crueltie raigned in Philomela? How incestuous a life led Æuropa? and how miserable was that man that married Sthuolea? What gaines got Tereus in winning Progne, but a loathsome death for a little delight. Agamemnon in possessing the beautie of Cresida, caused the Grecian armie most grieuously to be plagued. Candaules was slaine by his murthering wife, whom so intirely hee loued. Who was thought more happie than the husband of Helena, and yet who in time lesse fortunate? What hapless chaunces insued of the chastitie of Penelope? What broiles in Rome by the vertue of Lucretia? The one caused her tutors most horribly to bee slaine, and the other that Tarquine and all his posteritie were rooted out of their regall dignities. Phædra in louing killed her hapless sonne Hippolitus, and Clitemnestra in hating slewe her louing husband Agamemnon. Alas Valericus, how dangerous is it then to deale with such dames, which if they loue, they procure thy fatall care: and if they hate thee, thy finall calamitie?

But ah blasphemous beast that I am! thus reckelesly to raile and rage without reason, thus currishly to exclaime against those, without whom our life though neuer so luckie, should seem most loathsome? thus Tymon like, to condemne those heauenly creatures, whose only sight is a sufficient salue against all hellish sorrowes: Is this right, to conclude generally of particular premises? Is it iustice to accuse all for the fault of some? Is it equitie to blame the state of vertuous women, for the state of vicious wantons? Doest thou thinke Valericus to shake off the shackles of

fancie

fancie with this follie? Or to eschue the baite of beautie, by breaching out such blasphemie? No, no, assure thy self, that these thy raging reasons, will in time be most rigerously revenged, that the gods themselues will plague thée for braying out such iniurious speeches. Alas, Loue wanting desire, maketh the minde desperate: and fired fancie bereaued of loue turneth into furie. The loyall faith I beare to Castania, and the loathsome feare of her ingratitude, the déep desire which inforceth my hope, & the deadly despaire which infringeth my hap, so tolleth my minde with contrarie cogitations, that I neither regard what I say, to my harme; nor respect what I do, to my own hurt: yea, my senses are so belotted with pinching loue, and my minde so fretted with frying fancie, that death were thrice more welcome, than thus to linger in despairing hope.

And with that to passe away those pensiue passions, hée flung out of his chamber with his Hawke on his fist, thinking by such sport to driue away this melancholie humor, which so molested his minde.

But as hée was passing through the Court, hee was luckilie encountred by Melytta and Castania, who minding to haue some sport with Valericus before hée did passe: had the onset thus pleasantly giuen him by Castania.

IT is hard dooings Valericus (quoth shee) to take you either without your Hawke on your fist, or your heart on your halfepenie: for if for recreation you bee not retyring the Partridge with dogges, you are in solemne meditation driuing awaie the time with dumpes, neyther caring for companie to solace your sadnesse, nor pleasantlie discoursing of some amorous Parle: which makes the Gentlewomen of this Court thinke, that you are either an Apostata to loue, as was Narcissus, or haue displayed the flagge of defiance against Venus, as did Tyanarus. If these their surmised coniectures bée true,

Valericus, I warne thée as a friend to beware by other mens harmes, least if thou imitate their actions, thou bée mangled with the like miserie, or maimed with the like misfortune.

Valericus hearing his Saint pronouncing this lagered harmonie, feeling himselfe somewhat toucht with this quipping talke, was so rapt in admiration of her eloquence, and so ravisht in the contemplation of hir beautie, that hée stood in a maze not able to utter one word, vntill at last gathering his wits together, hée burst forth in these speeches.

MAdame (quoth he) what it pleaseth the gentlewomen of this court to surmise of my solitarines I know not: but if they attribute it to curiousnes, or coinesse, to strangenesse or statelinesse, either that I am an enemy to loue, or a foe to fancie, that I detest their bountie with Narcissus, or contemne their beautie with Tiancus, they offer me great iniurie so rashly to coniecture of my disease, before rightly they have cast my water. But to put your Ladiship out of doubt what is the cause of my dumpes, so it is, that of late raunging the fieldes, my heart (my hawke I should saie Madame) houered at such a princely prate, and yet mist of her flight, that since shee hath neither prumed her selfe, nor I taken anie pleasure. Marie if the fates should so fauour mee, or fortune so shroud me vp in prosperitie, that my desire might obtaine her wish, I would not onely change my mourning to mirth, my dolor to delight, and my care to security, but I would thinke to haue gotten as rich a prate as ever Cæsar gayned by conquest.

SVrely Signor Valericus (quoth Melytta) no doubt the prate is passing princely, since the value thereof is rated at so precious a price, and therfore we have neither cause to condemne your hawk of haggardnes, for want of prauning, nor

nor you of foolishnesse for want of pleasure. And if your heart (your Hawke I should say, Signior Valericus) hath reacht farther with her eye, than she is able to mount with her wing, although I am no skilfull Fawlkner, yet I think you had better keep her on the fist stil, and so serue her with hope, than let her misse againe of her slight, and so she turne taile and be foiled.

Indeede Madame (quoth Valericus) your counsaile is very good, for as there is no better confect to a crazed mind, than hope, so there is no greater corsiue to a careful man, than despaire, and the Falkners also iumpe with you in the same verdite, that the Hawke which misseth her pray, is doubtfull to soare aloofe and prooue haggard. Yet if she were so tickle, as she would take no stand, so ramage as she would be reclaimed with no lure, I had rather happely hazarde her for the gayning of so perilous a pray, though I both lost her, and wanted of my wish, than by keeping her still in the Mues, to proue her a bite, or mee a coward.

Indeed Sir (quoth Castania) Fortune euer fauoureth them that are valiant: and things the more hard, the more haughtie, high and heauenly: neither is any thing hard to bee accomplisht, by him that hardily entreprizeth it. But yet take heede that you fish not so faire, that at length you catch a Frogge, and then repentance make you mumble vp a masse with Miserere.

No Madame (quoth he) it is neuer seene that hee which is contented with his chance, should euer haue cause to repent him of his choice.

And yet (quoth she) he that buies a thing too deare, may be content with his chaffer, and yet with he had been more charie.

Trueth Madame (quoth Valericus) but then it is trash and no treasure, for that which is pretious is neuer ouerpriced, and a bad thing though neuer so cheap, is thought too chargeable.

Oh Sir (quoth Melytta) and is it not an olde saying, that a man may buy golde too deare, and that iewels though neuer so pretious, may be set at too high a price? I see if you had no better skill in manning of a Hawke, than in making of a bargaine, you would proue but an ill Faulkner. But since we haue so long troubled you with our talk, we will nowe leaue you to your sport, and so bid you farewell.

Valericus with a courteous Conge, repaying their curtesie, and with a glaunceing eye giuing his goddesse the dolefull Adio, went solitarilie into the secret woodes, where laying him downe in the shade, he fell into these musing meditations:

WHat greater prosperitie (quoth he) can happē vnto any earthly wight, than if he be crossed with care, to finde a consect to cure his calamity: than if he be pinched with paines, to get a plaister for his passions: if hée bée drenched in distresse, to finde a means to mitigate his miseries: which I sée by proofe performed in my sélie selfe: for the sight of my goddesse haue so saued my forepassed sorrowes, hir sweet words hath so healed my heauie woundes, that where before I was plunged in perplexitie, I am now placed in felicitie: where before I was oppressed with care, I am now refreshed with comfort. O friendly fortune, if from henceforth thou furiously frowne vpon mee, if thou daunt mee with disaster misshappe, or crosse mée with perpetuall care, yet thus thy friendly courtesie shall bee sufficient to counteruaile all future enormities.

But alas, I see euery prosperous puffe hath his boysterous blaste, euery sweete hath his sower, euery weale his woe, euery gale of good lucke, his storme of sinister fortune: yea, euery commoditie his discommoditie annexed: the blood of the Viper is most healthfull for the sight, and most hurtfull for the stomacke, the stone Celonites is very

very precious for the back, and very perilous to the braine: the flower of India pleasant to be seene, but whoso smelleth to it, feeleth present smart: so as the ioy of her presence procureth my delight, the annoy of her absence breedeth my despight: yea, the feare that she will not repay my loue with liking, and my fancie with affection, that she will not consent to my request, but rather meanes to fille mee with the raging stormes of repulse, and daunt me with the downe of deadly denials, so fretteth my hapelesse minde with hellish furie, that no plague, no paine, no torment, no torture can worse molest me, than to be distressed with this dreadfull despaire.

Alas, her calling is too high for mée to climbe vnto, her royall state is farre abous my reach, her haughtie minde is too loftie for mée to aspire: no doubt if I offer my sute vnto her, shee will proue like the stone of Silicia, which the more it is beaten, the harder it is: or like the spices of Ionia, which the more they are pounded the lesse sauour they yeild: like to the Iliphilon, which yeeldeth forth no iuice though neuer so well braied: so, though I should with neuer so great deuotion offer vp at her shrine, prayers, promises, sighes, sobs, teares, troth, faith, freedom, yea, and my heart it selfe, as a pledge to plead for pittie, yet she would make so small account of these my cares, and as little regard my ruth and ruine, as Eriphila did her faithfull friend Infortunio.

But oh wile wretch that I am! why do I thus without cause condemne Castania? Why do I accuse her of cruelties, in whom raigneth nothing but curtesie? Why doe I appeach her of coinesse, in whom bountie sheweth small curiousnesse?

How friendly, how familiarly, yea, how faithfully did she talke with me, what a cheerefull countenance did shee carry towards mee, what louing glances, what louely lookes: which no doubt are signes, that though shee repulse me at the first, shee will not refuse mee at the last: though

though she be straight in words, she will not be strange in minde: though she giue me some bitter pilles of denyall, it shall be but for the better tryall. And shall I then being fed with this hope proue such a mecocke, or a milksop, as to be feared with the tempestuous seas of aduersitie, when as at length I shal arriue at the hauen of happy estate? shall I dread to haue my ship shaken with some angrie blasts, hoping to bee safely landed on the shoare, and so haue my share of that, which the showers of shewd Fortune for a time haue denyed me? No, no,

Dulcia non meruit, qui non gustavit amara.

He is not worthy to sucke the swéte, which hath not first sauoured the sowre: hee is not worthy to eate the kernell which hath not crackt the shel, he deserueth not to haue the crown of victorie, which hath not abid the brunt of the battaile: hee meriteth not to possesse the pray, which will not willingly take some part of the paine: Neither is he worthy of so heauenly a Dame as Castania, that would not spend the most pretious bloud in his body, in the pursuite of so peereleese a piece.

VAlericus thus mitigating his paine with the milde medicine of hope, and rooting out the dead flesh of despaire with the playster of truth, determined to strike on the stith while the yron was hot, and so pursue his purpose while his mistresse was in her good mode. And therfore leaning his sport for this time, highed him to the court in haste: where insinuating himself into the societie of the Ladies and Gentlewomen, hee shewed himselfe in sport so pleasant, in talk so witty, in manners so modest, in conceits so cunning, in parle so pithie, and in all his conuersation so comely, that whereas before he was specially loued of none, now he was generally liked of all: informed that for a time there was no talk in the Court but of the Metamorphosis of Valericus minde. Who oftentimes determining in plain tearms to present his suite to Castania, when he came to the

point,

point, feare of offence, and dread of denial, disappointed his purpose, that he remained mute in the matter: but at last perceiuing delay bred danger, seeing his mistris sit alone in his presence, houering betweene feare and hope, he began the assault with this march.

MAdame (quoth he) for that I see you sitting thus solitarie in dumps, I am the bolder to presse in place, although the most vnworthy man to supply it. Hoping you will pardon my rudenesse for troubling thus rashly your musing meditations, and count my company the lesse offensiue in that I see you busied with no such serious matters whereunto my presence may be greatly preiudiciall. Cyneas the Philosopher, Madam, was of this minde, that when the gods made beautie, they skipt beyond their skill, in that they framed it of greater force than they themselues were able to resist. If then there is none so wise or worthy whom beauty cannot wrack, nor none issued of such princely birth whom beauty cannot bend, though I haue bene intangled with the snare of fancie, and haue stirred to the lure of beauty, I am the more to be borne with, and the lesse to be blamed. For I must of force confesse Madame, that the gifts of nature so abundantly bestowed vpō you, your excellent beauty and exquisite vertue, haue so scaled the walls of my fancie, and sacked the fort of my freedom, that for my last refuge I am forced to appeale vnto your curtesie, as the onely medicine which may cure my intolerable disease. May incurable I may well call it, for (I speake with teares outwardly, and drops of blood inwardly) vnlesse the mizling showers of your mercie mitigate the fire of my fancie, the droppes of your princely fauour quench the flame of my affection, and the guerdon of your good will giue a soueraigne plaister for my secret sore, I am like to passe my life in more miserie, than if I had taken the infernall torments. But I hope it is not possible, that out of a fugered Fount would distill a bitter streame,

out of a fragrant flower a filthy sap, and from such diuine beautie should proceed hate and hellish cruelties.

It is Madame, your beautie which hath wrought my woe, and it is your bountie which must worke my weale. It is your heauenly face which hath depriued me of libertie, and your courteous consent must bee the meanes to redeeme me from captiuitie: for as he that eateth of the Brain leafe, and is infected, can by no meanes be cured, vnlesse he taste of the same roote: as hee which is wounded of the Porcupine, can neuer bee healed vnlesse his wounds bee washt with the blood of the same beast: as there is nothing better against the stinging of a Snake, than to be rubbed with an Adders slough, and as he which is hurt of the Scorpion seekes a salue from whom he receiued the sore, so loue onely is remedied by loue, and fancie by mutuall affection: you Madame, must minister the medicine, which procured the maladie, and it onely lies in your power to applie the plaister which inferred the paine.

Therfore I appeale to your good grace and fauour, and at the barre of your beautie I humbly holde vp my hands, resting to abide your sentence, either of consent vnto life, or denial vnto death.

CAstania hearing this solemne discourse of Valericus, was driuen into a maze with this vnlookt for motion, musing that hee would so farre ouershoote himselfe, as to attempt so vnlikely a match, and therefore with disdainfull countenance she gaue him this daunt:

AS your present arriuall Signor Valericus dooth not greatly preiudice my muses, so I think it will as litle profit your motion: and as your company pleaseth mee regarding the person, so it much misliketh me, respecting the Parle: that your counts being once cast you shall find your absence might haue more pleasured you, and better contented me. For tis vnpossible Valericus, to call the Falcon

to

to that Lure wherin the pens of a Chameleon are pricked, because she doth deadly detest them, it is hard to traine the Lyon to that trappe which sauoureth of Disgredium, because he loatheth it. And it is as impossible to perswade me to enter league with fancie, which am a mortall foe to affection, and to vow my seruice to Venus, which am alreadie addicted to Diana. No, no sir, I mean not to loue, least I liue by the losse, nor to chuse, least my skill being small, I repent my chance. Shee that is free and willingly runneth into fetters is a fole, and whoso becommeth captiue without constraint, may be either thought wilfull or witlesse. It is good by other mens harmes to learne to beware, and to looke before a man doth leape, least in skipping beyond his skill, he light in the mire. Whoso considereth the ficklenesse of mens affections, and the fleeting soondnesse of their fading fancie, who carefully loketh at the lightnesse of their loue, and marketh the inconstancie of their wauering minde, who readeth the records which make mention of their deepe dissembling, faithlesse protestations, false vowes, periured promises, fayned loue, and forged flattery: how poore Ariadne was abused, how Medea was mocked, how Dido was deceiued, how Oenone was reiected, and how Phyllis was forsaken, and yet would be allured to the traine with such filthie scraps, I would count her chaunce to good, were her choice neuer so bad. But leauing these necessarie doubts, Valericus, I tel you for troth, if I meant to loue, it is not you I mean to like: if affection forced me, it is not your person I mean to fancie, your patrimony is not sufficient to countervaile my parentage, nor your bringing vp my birth, and therfore I would wish you to sow the seede of your suite in a more fertile soile, for in me you shall finde no grafts of grant to growe, nor no content to be cropped, for I neither like of your vnlikely loue, nor mean not to be framed to your fancie.

Valericus beeing pushed with this pike, thought it a signe of small courage to yeeld at the first foyne, and there-

fore looking more narrowly to his ward, and gathering himselfe within his weapon, he stood to his tackling with this reply:

MAdame (quoth he) if you condemn me of folly for climbing a staffe too high, or accuse me of fondnesse for laying my loue on a person of such princely parentage, if I seeme to make an ill market in cheaping such precious chaffer, as the price thereof is far aboue my reach, yet my offence is too small to beare anie waightie penance, sith where the fault proceedeth of loue, there the pardon insueth of course, but your beautie shall beare all the blame, as the onely spurre of this my rash enterprise. For as it is impossible for the yron to resist the operation of the Adamant, or the silly strawe the vertue of the sucking ieat, so as impossible it is for a louer to withstand the brunt of beautie, to freeze if he stand by the flame, or to peruert the lawes of Nature. So that Madame if you knew what a breache your beautie hath made into my breast, and how deepely I haue shrined the idoll of your person in my haplesse heart, I assure my self though my person and parentage, my birth and bringing vp be far vnfit for such a mate yet you would deeme my loue and loyaltie to deserue no lesse. Loyaltie I call it Madam; for as all things are not made of one mould, so all men are not of one minde: as the Serpentine powder is quickly kindled, and quickly out, so the Salamander stone once set on fire can neuer bee quenched: as the soft ware is apt to receiue euerie impression, so the hard metall neuer changeth form without melting. Iason was neuer so trouthlesse as Troylus was trustie: Paris was neuer more fickle then Pyramus was faithfull; Æneas was neuer so light as Leander was faithfull And sure Madame, I call the gods to witnesse, I speake without faining, that sith your beautie and vertue eyther by fate or fortune is so deeply shrined in my heart, if it please you to accept mée for your slaue or seruant, and admit

mée

mée ſo farre into your fauour, as that I may freely enioie the ſight of your ſweet face, and feed my fancie in the contemplation of your beautie; in lieue wherof, I will repaie ſuch dutifull ſeruice, as the betrothed faith of Eraſta to his Perſida, ſhall not compare with the loue of Valericus and Caſtania.

CAſtania hearing theſe perplexed paſſions proceed from wofull Valericus, pricked forwarde to take ſome remorſe of his torments, felt within her minde a carefull conflict betweén fancie and the fates, loue & the deſtinies: fancy perſwaded her to take pittie of his paines, the fates forced her to giue him the repulſe: loue wiſht her to return his good will with gaine, the deſtinies draue her to deny his requeſt: toſſed thus with contrary cogitations, at laſt ſhe burſt forth into theſe doubtfull ſpéeches.

VAlericus, as I am not altogether to reward thy good will with hate, ſo I cannot repaie it with loue, becauſe fancie denies me to like: to marry I meane not, to retaine ſeruants I may not. Sparie, to let thée eyther to loue, or lyke, take this for an anſwere, I neyther can nor will.

And with that ſhée went her way, leauing Valericus greatly daunted with this doubtfull anſwere, with feare and hope ſo interchaunged, that being left alone, he began thus to conſider of his amorous conceits.

IF euer wofull creature had cauſe to complain his wofull eaſe, then vndoubtedly may I preace for the foremoſt place: for there is no ſorrow more ſower, no torment more terrible, no griefe more grieuous, no heauineſſe more hurtfull, than to haue deſire requited with deſpight, and good will with hate, then to like vpon hope of curteſie, and to finde nothing but hate and hellish crueltie.

Alas poore Valericus, is thy true loue thus trifflingly

accounted of, is this the guerdon for thy good will? Doth thy deepe desire merite no better desert, then hast thou no choice, but eyther to dye desperately, or else to line loathsomly? Why fond sole doest thou count her cruell, that at the first giues not a free consent? Doest thou think her coie that commeth not at the first call, wouldest thou haue the match made at the first motion? She that is wonne with a word will bee lost with a winde, the Hawke that bates at euery cast of the Lure, will neuer bee stedfast on the fonde, the woman that frameth her will to euery wish will proue but a wilde wanton. No, no, Valericus, let not her denials daunt thée, let not the sower taste of her talke quat thy queasie stomacke, conster all things at the best, though her censure was very seuere, yet shee knit vp her talke with a curteous close. The hound which at the first default giueth ouer the chase, is called but a curre. The Knight that finding the first encounter combersom, giueth ouer the quest, is counted but a coward, and the louer that at the first denyall is daunted with despayre, is neyther worthy to obtaine his desire, nor to enioy his desert. And with that he flung out of his Chamber, both to auoid the melancholy which tormented his minde, and sée if he could haue a sight of his goddesse.

But Castania altogether vnwilling to parle with her new patient, kept her selfe out of his sight: which Valericus espying, was no whit amazed, but like a valiant souldiour gaue the fort a fresh assault with a new kinde of batterie, séeking to obtaine that with writing, which he could not gaine with words, and therefore speedily framed a letter to this effect.

Seignor Valericus, to the Lady Castania, health.

THere is no creature (Madame Castania) so bereaued of reason, or depriued of sense, which being oppressed with direfull calamities, findeth not by méere instinct of nature,

nature, a preſent medicine for his maladie, man onely excepted, who by reaſon of this want, may iuſtly accuſe the iniurious gods of iniuſtice. The Tiger though neuer ſo deadly wounded, taſteth the rote of Tamariſke, and is preſently cured: The Deare being ſtroken, though neuer ſo deep, feedeth on the herb Dictamnum, and forthwith is healed: the Lyon ſalueth his ſickneſſe by eating the Sea Woolfe, and the Unicorne recouereth his health by ſwallowing vp the buds of a Date tree. But man being croſſed with care, or oppreſſed with griefe, pinched with fancie, or perplexed with loue, findeth no herbe ſo wholeſome, nor medicine ſo milde, no platter ſo perfect, nor no ſalue ſo ſoueraigne, which by their ſecrete vertues can appeaſe his paſſions. Which Madame, I know by proofe, & now ſpeak by experience: for your diuine beautie and ſecret vertue, the perfection of your bodie and the bountie of your minde, hath kindled ſuch a flaming fire in my hapleſſe heart, that by no meanes it may be quenched, but will turne my body into dry earth and cinders, vnleſſe by the droppes of your pittie it bee ſpedily redreſſed. Then Madame, ſith your beautie is my bale, let it be my bliſſe: ſince it hath wrought my woe, let it worke my weale, and let not my faithfull ſeruice and loyall loue be recompenced with ſuch rigorous refuſals. Striue not for my life, ſince you haue my libertie, ſeeke not my death, ſince you are the Saint to whom I offer vp my deuotion. But good Madame, let the ſweete Balme of your benenolence ſalue the ſore which ſo painfully afflicteth my carefull conſcience, and with the beame of your grace redeeme him from moſt helliſh miſerie, whoſe life and death ſtandeth in your anſwere, which I hope ſhall be ſuch as belongeth to the deſert of my loue, and the thew of your beautie.

Yours, if he be
Don Valericus.

Valericus

Valericus hauing thus finished his Letter, sent it with as much spéde as might be by his Page to Castania, who finding her at conuenient leasure, with most reuerent dutie deliuered it. Castania at the first sight contemning the contents, with scornful looks and disdainfull countenance vnripped the seales, where séeing and reading his déep deuotion shee perceiued that his affection was no lesse in déede, than he professed in woord: she notwithstanding would take no remorse of his torment, but to driue him more into dolefull dumpes, she returned him this damp.

Castania, to Signior Valericus.

As it is impossible (Signor Valericus) to straine moist licour out of the drie flint, to procure flaming heate in that which alreadie is nipped with chilling colde, to force the flardie streames to run against their common course, so as hard it is to win vnwilling loue, eyther with teares or truth. For if thy birth and patrimony could countervaile my parentage, if my Father were content to knit vp the knot, yet neither his commaund nor thy intreaty should make mee to chose without my owne loue and liking. Sith then thou art the man whome I rather loathe than like, cease from thy suite, make a vertue of necessitie, and asswage the flame thy self which no other will quench. By importunate persisting in thy purpose where no hope is, thou prouest thy selfe rather a desperate sot than a discréete souldioar. To hop against the hill is extreame fondnesse, to striue against the streame, méere folly: then Valericus, auoyde the one, and eschew the other, for if thou wilt seeke to gayne my good will, thou shalt turne the endlesse stone with Sisiphus, and therefore take my nay for answere. For if I would I cannot, and if I could I will not. And so farewell.

No way yours,
Castania.

Valericus

VAlericus hauing receiued this rigorous Letter from ruthlesse Castania, seeing with what great disdain she reiected his dutifull deuotion, and how with coy countenance and lowring lookes, she rewarded his loyall loue, hee began with reason somewhat to represse his rage, and with wisedome to redresse his witlesse folly: for comparing her crueltie with his owne curtesie, and her wilfull disdaine with his willing duty, his disordinate desire began not only to decay, but his extreame loue turned to extream hate, insomuch that forced with despight, he sent her (in reuenge) these raging lines.

Valericus the despised, to despightfull Castania.

DIogenes being demanded why so extreamly hee hated women, answered, because (quoth hee) they be women: so if thou aske of mee why so rudely I raile against thy recklesse folly, I answere, because thou art Castania, whose mercilesse mind is so misledde with ingratitude, & whose currish nature is soyled with carelesse inconstancie, that like Menechmus Subreptus his wife, thou doest not begin to loue ere againe thou seekest to hate. Thou plaiest, Castania, like the yong Eagles, which being hatched vp by the bird Osyphaga, neuer seek to peark on loftie Mounts, but to sit in durtie Dales, and like the greedie kite which leaueth the sweete flesh, to praie on the stinking carrion. But why do I so farre forget my selfe? Is she to be blamed that leaueth her choyce to haue a better chaunce? or is the Faulcon to bee accused of bastardie, that leaueth the starling to pray on the Larke? No: and no doubt such is thy case: for if it be true that all speaketh, or at the least suspecteth, thou art like by thy louers parentage to become a great Potentate: for if armes be the bewrayer of auncient descents, no doubt he is come of an olde house. Yea,

thy father Orlanio may roioyce if hée liue to sée the day that his daughter shall bee so well wedded as to such a wrangling wisard. But Pasiphae preferred a Bull before a King, and Venus a smeared Smith before Mars the god of battaile. Tush, Psomneticus was father to Rhodopes children, whosoeuer begat them: and that cloake is of a course spinning, that cannot kéep off the raine. Farewell.

Liuing he hopes to reuenge thy iniuries.

Wofull Valericus.

CAstania no sooner had read these despitefull lines of Valericus, but her minde fried with the flames of furie, and her breast broyled with raging wrach, in such sort, that she could not be in quiet nor take any rest, shée busied her selfe so carefully in studying with what kinde of reuenge shée might best wreake her wrach vpon him, and requite his spitefull spéeches. At last womanlike, shee found her tongue the best weapon, and with that she plagued him in this sort.

Castania, to Valericus, neither health nor good hap.

THe Mastiffe Dogge (Valericus) can neuer quest like a Spaniell, but he must alwaies barke like a Curre: it is natural for the Pie to chatter, for the Iaye to iangle, and for thee to raile and rage like a frantike foole. Doest thou think (Valericus) by brawling like a beggar to become a King, or by thy moodlesse folly to obtaine my fauour? no, as I know thy knauery, so I passe not for thy brauery: neyther can those vaunts stand for payment, where the partie is prickt for a péeuish paltering patch. It is no maruaile if thy doggish Letters sauour of Diogenes doctrine: for in troth thou art such a Cinicall kind of dunce, that

that thy fonde felicitie is in biting bitterly those, whome otherwise thou canst not reuenge. Indéede, gentle Balaams Asse, if I had béene so light as to haue loued you, I might iustly haue béene accused to haue béene a curre or a Kistrell: for in faith shee that séedes her fancy on thy face, may onely reape this profite, to fill her eyes full with the figure of a foole. For my louers arms, Valericus, they are imblazed in such a coate, as it is hard for thée to controll. But, I know thou boastest that thou hast gotten thy antiquitie by conquest, and kéepest thy Letters patents in the beggers boxe. Thus adieu sir dunce: the more you mislike me, the better I loue my selfe.

Thy detested foe,
Castania.

VAlericus his heart was so hardened with hate, as he was nothing dismaied with this rigorous reply, but thought himselfe halfe satisfied, that hee had thus kindly toucht her to the quicke, praying the gods, that sith it was not in his possibilitie to make any sufficient reuenge, they would by some sinister meanes requite her cruelty. But leauing him to his dumps, at last to Gwydonius, who besides the beautie of his body, and the bounty of his minde (wherat all Alexandria wondered) had by good gouernment and perfect practice, obtained such a dexterity in all things, as in feates of arms no man more forward, in exercise none more actiue, in play none more politicke, in parle none more pleasant: amongst the Auncients verie wise, amongst the youthfull who more merry? so that there was no time, person, nor place, whereto aptly hee applyed not himselfe: insomuch that hee entred into such fauour and familiarity with Thersandro & Castania, that he was the onely man whose company they desired to enioy. But especially Castania, who by casting a gazing glaunce sometime vppon the beautie of Gwydonius,

felt a certaine reſtraint of libertie in her affections, an alteration of minde, and as it were a ciuile aſſault within her ſelfe: but hauing ſmall practice in the panges of loue, ſhe could not coniecture the ſecret cauſe of theſe her ſodain paſſions, thinking that as it was a tope lightly taken, ſo it would as lightly be left: and vpon this, ſtill ſhee reſted, conceiuing onely an ordinary kinde of liking towardes Gwydonius.

Who bathing thus in the ſtreames of bliſſe, and ſafely harboured in the hauen of happineſſe, wanting nothing which might content his minde, eyther for pleaſure or profit, thought it a point of meere folly eyther to ſéeke or wiſh for more than inough, knowing that to ſtraine further than the ſléeue would ſtreted, was but to make the arme bare, and to skippe beyond a mans skill, was to leape, but not to know where to light: to auoide therfore haſtineſſe in hazarding, he fell a ſlumbering in the careleſſe ſeat of ſecuritie.

But as it is impoſſible for a man to ſléepe by the Aſpe and not bée inuenomed, to gaze vpon the Cockatrice and not be infected, to ſtare vpon the Sunne and not bee dazeled, to looke vpon Meduſas head and not be tranſformed, to wade in the waues and not be drenched, to handle coales and not be ſcorched: ſo it was as impoſſible for yong Gwydonius to gaze vpon the beauty of Caſtania and not be galled, to fixe his eyes vpon her feature and not be ſettered, to ſée her vertuous qualities and not be inueigled: for her curteſie had ſo encountred him, her modeſty had ſo amazed him, and her chary chaſtity ſo inchaunted him, that whereas he came to Orlanio his Court frée from affection, he was now become a ſeruile ſlaue to fancie; before a foe to luſt, now a friend to loue; yea, he felt ſuch an alienation of his ſenſes, and ſuch a ſtrange Metamorphoſis of his minde, as reaſon was turned to rage, mirth to mourning, ioy to annoy, delight to deſpight, weale to woe, bliſſe to bale: in fine, ſuch contrary paſſions ſo perplexed this doubtfull

full Patient, as maugre his face hée yéelded the forte to fancie, and puld in the former flagge of defiance, intreated for truce, and began to enter parle with Cupide on this manner.

O Gwydonius (quoch hée) what strange chaunce, nay what rare chaunge, what solemne motion, nay, what sodaine madnesse, what foolish frenzie, or rather what frantike affection hach possessed thee? Is thy lawlesse liberty turned to a slauish captiuitie? Is thy fréedome fettered? Are thy senses besotted? Is thy wit inueigled? Wert thou of late a defier of Venus, and art thou now a defender of vanity? Didst thou of late renounce beauty as a foe, and wilt thou now embrace her as a friend? Is this the carefull kéeping of thy fathers commanndement? Or is this thy diligent duty in obseruing the counsaile of thy olde sire Clerophontes? Hast thou so soon forgot his fatherly precepts, or committed to obliuion his friendly aduertisement? Did hee carefully warne thee to beware of loue, and wilt thou carelesly wed thy selfe to lust? Did hee shewe thee what poysoned bane is hidden vnder the painted baytes of beauty, and wilt thou bee haled to the hooke?

O haplesse case: nay rather, if the chary charge thy father gaue thee, will bée no constraint, if his counsaile will not commaund thée, if his warning will not make thee wary, nor his aduise be thy aduisement: yet let imminent perils, and insuing dangers be a precious preseruatiue against future calamities. Cōsider with thy selfe Gwydonius, what difference is betwéen fréedom and bondage, betwéene liberty and captiuitie, mirth and mourning, pleasure and paine, rest and care, happinesse and heauinesse: and so far doth hee which is frée from affection, differ from him which is fettered in fancie.

Why but Gwydonius, why doest thou thus recklesly rage, against reason? Why dooest thou thus fondly exclaime

claime against thine owne welfare? Why dooest thou condemne thy selfe of that crime whereof thou art not guiltie?

Thy Father warned thee to beware of fickle fancie: but this thy liking is firm affection. His counsaile was to perswade thee from lewd lust, but not from lawfull loue, from vanitie, not from vertue: yea, his will was to withe thée from liking such a lewd minió, who had neither birth, wealth, nor vertue, but a little fading beauty to be either her credite or thy countenance, not to warne thee from loning such a chast maiden, nay, a pérlesse Princesse, whose birth may countenance thy calling, whose power may promote thee, whose liuinges may inrich thée, whose vertue may aduance thée: yea, in obtaining whom, thou shalt gain both honour, and perhappes the inheritance of a Dukedome.

Doest thou thinke then Gwydonius, in winning so worthy a péece, to purchace thy fathers displeasure? nay assure thy selfe hee will not onely be content with thy chance, but hee will thinke thou hast runne a happier race, than Hyppomanes did in winning Atlante. Content thée with thy chance. Why Gwydonius, art thou so fond a fole, as to count the Castle conquered, that as yet thou hast not compassed: to suppose the Citie sacked, which thou hast not besieged: to think the Bulwarke beaten, which as yet thou hast not battered: or to count the Lady wonne, whome as yet thou hast not wooed? Nay Gwydonius, if thou weigh thy case in the equal ballance, thou hast more cause of feare than of hope; of doubt than of assurance, of missing thy pretence, than of obtayning thy purpose.

The Faulkon (Gwydonius) seldome pearketh with the Perline, the Lyon seldome lodgeth with the Mouse, the Hart seldome fedeth with the Pricket, Aquila non capit Muscas, and a Dame indued with Nobilitie, vouchsafeth not to match with a man of meane gentility. Of meane gentilitie Gwydonius? Yea truely, for Castania rather thinketh

thinketh thee sprong of some poore peasant, than of any princely personage.

Besides, alas, Fortune her selfe denieth me any such fauour: my good will as yet hath deserued no such guerdon, my desire is farre aboue my desertes, my ambition aboue my condition, and the poor stay of wandering Gwydonius, farre vnfit for the princely state of worthy Castania. But put case she did will as I did, wish that shee were pricked in the same veine, caught in the same snare, trapped with the like traine, and fired with the like fancy, yet the Duke her father will neither condescend to her minde, nor consent to my motion, neither thinke well of her liking nor of my loue: nay if he should but once heare of such recklesse folly, as he hath wrought my promotion, so he would work my confusion, as he hath béen my friend, so he woulde bée my foe, and in troth Gwydonius, not without cause. For art thou so voyd of vertue, or bowed to vice, so nursed vp in vanity, or nusled vp in villany, as to requite his liberalitie with such disloyaltie, to returne the trust which he reposeth in thée, with such treason. Tush, Loue is aboue Lord or Lawe, friend or faith. Where Loue leadeth, no maister is made account of, no king cared for, no friend forced of, no duty respected, but all things done according to the qualitie that is predominant. Why Gwydonius, what doubts are these that thou thus dreamest on? Why doest thou cast beyonde the Moon, and fear before thou art in daunger to fall? knowing that Loue and fortune desireth not them that are dastards, nor careth for them that are cowardes. The Captaine that retyreth from the walles before hée hath the repulse, shall neuer returne a conquerour, the Souldiour that fainteth before the battaile be fought, shall neuer vaunt himselfe of victorie. Hée that feareth euery tempest is not fit to be a trauailer. Hée that doubteth euery waue shall neuer proue a perfect Pilot, and he that in loue dreadeth euery chip of mischaunce, may well encoounter, but neuer obtaine the conquest.

Sith

Sith then Gwydonius, hardy venturing is a signe of happy victory, sound out the march with the trumpet of trust, begin the assault, giue the onset. Lay the battering peeces of Loue, against the bulwarke of beautie, and no doubt thy successe shall be such as thou shalt triumph with Cæsar and say, Veni, Vidi, Vici. And art thou so presumptuous fond foole, as to promise thy selfe the conquest? knowest thou not that the path of loue is perilous? And with that he fell into such melancholie passions, such contrary cogitations, such doubtfull thoughts, such fearefull suppose, that as hée which eateth of the Garde rote loseth his memorie, and as the Elephant when he eateth of the Heliotropion leafe, is then very sléepie; so Gwydonius was so perplexed with these vnacquainted passions, that contrarie to his custome he had driuen myrth into mourning, pleasant conceits into painfull cares, laughing into lowring, singing into sorrow: and being thus besotted, to solace himself he went into a Parke adioyning to the Dukes Palace, where sitting vnder the shade of a Bérch trée, leaning his head on his hand, he lay as one in a slumber. But Fortune willing somewhat to fauour this young novice, brought it to passe, that Thersandro, Valericus, Castania, and Melytta, with diuerse other Gentlemen, were for recreation sake ranging in the same Park: who espying ghostly Gwydonius, sitting as one in a trance, Castania passing before the rest, pulling him by the sléeue, drane him thus out of his dump.

VVHy how now Gwydonius (quoth shee) are you dreaming or doubting, or is your mind musing vpõ som metaphysicall motions, that you sit thus as a man half mortified? Your solemn gesture makes me remember the picture of Pigmalion, which once I sawe portrated out by a skilfull Painter, who leaning his head on his Parble mistres (that so vnkindly he loued) sat with his eies as one in a slumber, hauing his face notwithstanding so bedewed with

wich brutish teares, as his outward plaints did sufficiently bewray his inward passions. In truch Gwydonius, I had taken thee for Pigmalion, if thou hadst had tears, as thou wert in a trance; for thou doest not greatly differ from him neither in countenance nor colour: well if it were but a dreame Gwydonius, that thus cumbred thy conscience, or a doubt that made thée thus dumpish, I will diuine the one if it be not too dark, or decide the other if it be not too secret: marry if the case bee cumbersome, I leaue it to the iudgement of these Gentlemen.

GWydonius, wakened out of his musing slumber wich this sugred harmony, séeing before his eyes his gorgeous goddesse, the very saint, at whose shrine hee was offering vp scalding sighes, far fetcht sobs, plaints, prayers, and protestations, was so appald wich her presence, that as the Basilisk losech his senses wich the sight of a naked man, as the Toretoise séeing ẏ Norch star is benummed, & as the Hermeline looking on the stone Echites is greatly amazed; so Gwydonius séeing the incomparable beauty of his best beloued Castania, was so astonished, yea so inchanted wich the rare perfectiō of this heauenly Pallas, that as one besotted he sate senselesse, not being able to vtter one word; vntil at lengch reuiued wich the view of hir chéerful countenance he repaid her wich this pleasant answere.

MAdame (quoch hee) whereas iestingly you say, that at the first sight you had taken me for perplexed Pigmalion by my pittifull plaints and carefull countenance, but that I wanted trickling tears to decipher my sorrow; I answer, that wo may very well be without watry waylings: for when the stone Garatides fryech wichout, it fréezech wichin, the Germander lease when it is most full of moysture, lookech then most drie, where the streame is most déepe there it is most still, and where is the smallest shewe of teares, there is the greatest signe of sorrowe. And also

I call the heauens to witnesse, that when you wakened me out of my dreame by your diuine eloquence, I took you either for beauty to bee Venus, for comelinesse to bee Pallas, or for port and honour to be Iuno, so that both your presence and curtesie daunted my minde; your presence in dazeling my eyes so sodainly with so solemn a sight, your curtesie, in that your Ladiship without curiositie would vouchsafe to talk with so meane a Gentleman. But Madame, such that I perceiue your skill in diuination to bee great, in that you made so cunning a coniecture, and without anie great ayming, so rightly hitte the marke; to put you out of doubt, I confesse I was both in a dreame and a doubt, wherein such it pleaseth your honour to take so much paine, I will craue your ayde to diuine the one, and decide the other.

The Dreame.

I Was walking (Madame Castania) in my dreame (as I supposed) solitarily by the Sea side, whereas I tooke delight to see the Dolphines leape, (which as the Mariners say, is a signe of imminent tempest) I forthwith espied a rocke in the Sea, whereupon stood a Lady arrayed with roabes of burnisht golde, so formed and framed, so adorned and decked with the gifts of Nature, as at the first I took her to be Thetis, that had so gorgeously clad her selfe, to welcome home her louer and Lord Neptunus. But viewing her countenance more narrowly, I perceiued her to be a mortall creature (though vnworthie such diuine beautie should be shrouded in the substance of an earthly carcasse) which so inflamed my affection, so fired my fancy, and so kindled my desire, that the torments of Tantalus, the torture of Ixion, the sorrow of Sisyphus, were not halfe comparable to the perplexed passions that pinched my hapless heart, when I sawe all hope cut away from inioying this

earthly

earthly goddesse, the sea which compassed the rocke was so déepe and dangerous, the cliffes so stéep-down and fearfull, as to descend was no lesse daunger then deach it selfe: thus as I surged in griefe, and wandred vp and downe in woe, I spied a bridge afarre off, whereby was a passage to the rocke: which sight so salued my forepassed sorrow, and so reuiued my daunted minde, as I was driuen into an ertaste for ioy, to see so good meanes to enioy my wished desire. Comming to the bridge, I found it built of glasse so cunningly & so curiously, as if nature her self had sought to purchase credit by framing so curious a péece of workmãship. But yet so slẽderly, as ẏ least waight was able to pash it into innumerable péeces, and vnderneath the bridge did runne so terrible a sea, such bouncing billowes, such tumbling waues, such fearefull surges, such roaring streames, such hideous gulfes, as it made the passage séeme a thousand times more perilous. This terrible sight was such a cooling card to my former conceits, as hope was turned to feare, blisse to bale, and supposed happinesse to assured heauinesse. And yet my fancy was not quenched, but rather far the more inflamed, my desire was not diminished, but augmented, and my liking no lesse, but rather inlarged; so that to liue in loue without hope was loachsome: to séek redresse was losse of life: to want my wish, was horror: to inioy my wil, was hel: to liue in care without cõfort, was calamity: to séek for cure, was more than misery: not to possesse the pray, was hellish danger: to venture for the prize, was haples death. Thus crossed with cares, & daũted with such diuers doubts, desperate hope so repulsed direful feare, that encouraged by ventrous desire, I had either obtained my wish, or wanted of my wil, if your Ladiship had not so sodainly wakened me out of my slũber. Thus Madame Castania, you haue heard my dreame: now the doubt is, whether it had been better to haue ventured vppon the brittle bridge, and so either desperately to haue ended cares with death, or else valiantly to haue enioyed desire with

renowme, or ſtill like a fearefull daſtard to haue ended m
dayes in lingering lone with miſery.

Caſtania, hearing the ſurmized dreame of Gwydoniu
both ſmelled the fetch, and ſmiled at the folly of this youn
youth, knowing that theſe fantaſticall viſions and preſu
poſed paſſions, would in time (if hée tooke not héed) pro
but too true: to preuent therefore ſuch imminent perils, ſh
nipt her yong nouice on the pate with this parle.

GGydonius (quoth ſhee) I haue liſtened to thy dronſ
dreame, with déep deuotion; by ſo much the more de
rous attentiuely to heare it, by how much the more I fin
it ſtrange and wonderfull: yea, ſo ſtrange, as if I my ſelf
had not wakened thee out of thy ſlumber, I would eyth
haue thought it a fained viſion, or a fantaſticall inuentio
but ſith theſe Gentlemen here preſent, and mine owne
eyes are witneſſes, and thine owne tongue a teſtimon
of thy talk; ſuffice I beléeue it, though I cannot diuine i
to giue a verdits where the euidence is not vnderſtood,
vanity: to yéeld a reaſon of an vnknowne caſe, is mær
folly: and to interpret ſo ſtrange a dreame without gre
practice, is but to skip beyond my skill, and to ſtickfaſt
the mire. Yet, leaſt I might ſéeme to promiſe much & pe
form nothing, I wil decide your doubt, if you pleaſe to tak
my doom for a cenſure.

It is a ſaying Gwydonius, not ſo common as true, tha
the haſty man neuer wants woe, and that hee which i
raſh without reaſon, ſeldome or neuer ſléepeth without re
pentance. To venture amidſt the Pikes when perille
cannot bée eſchewed, is not fortitude but folly: to hazard
in daungers, when death inſueth, is not to bee worthil
minded, but wilfully moued. Vertue alwaies conſiſtet
betwéen extreamities, that as too much fearefulneſſe is th
ſigne of a quaking coward, ſo too much raſhnes betokenet
a deſperate Ruffian. Manhood Gwydonius conſiſteth i
meaſure & worthineſſe, in fearing to hazard without hope

Bu

But to giue a verdit by thine owne voyce, I perceiue thou art guilty of the same crime: for when the brittleneſſe of the bridge portended, and the ſurging ſeas inferred loſſe of life, yet deſire draue thée to aduenture ſo deſperate a danger.

Better it is Gwydonius, to liue in griefe, then to dye deſperately without grace: better to chooſe a lingering life in miſery, then a ſpeedy death without mercie: better to be tormented with hapleſſe fancy, then with helliſh fiends: for in life it is poſſible to repaſſe calamity, but after death neuer to redreſſe miſery. Tully Gwydonius in his Tuſculans queſtions, diſcourſing of the happineſſe of life and bewtineſſe of death, ſayth, that to liue we obtaine it of the louing gods, but to dye, of the vnlucky deſtinies: meaning hereby, that life though neuer ſo loathſome, is better then death, though neuer ſo welcome: whereby I conclude Gwydonius, that to liue carefully, is better then to die deſperately.

Gwydonius perceiuing that Caſtanias parle was nothing to the purpoſe, and that ſhée touched not that point whérof he deſired moſt to be abſolued, but meant to ſhake him off with a fléeueleſſe anſwere, began to drawe her to the Trap with this traine.

MAdame Caſtania (quoth hé) I confeſſe that rathneſſe neuer raigneth without repentance, nor haſtie hazarding without hapleſſe harmes, that hé which aduenture reth deſperate dangers is a fole, and he that paſſeth inéuitable perils is worſe then an Aſſe: yet from theſe ſo generall rules, Madame, I exempt theſe particular exceptions, namely Loue and Neceſſitie, which two are tyed within no bounds, nor limited within no law, for whom the diuell drines hé muſt nédes runne, be the paſſage neuer ſo perilous: and whom Loue or Neceſſity forceth, hee muſt venture bee the daunger neuer ſo deſperate: for as there is no enterprize ſo eaſie, which to an vnwilling man ſeemeth not

very hard to be atchieued, so there is no encounter so cum-
bersome where will wisheth, that semeth not passing ea-
sie to bee performed: now this will is wich nothing lesse
pricked forward, than either with the force of loue, or sting
of necessity. So that whosoeuer aduentureth in a daunger,
though neuer so desperate, is not to be blamed, if inforced
by fancy, or incouraged by affection; and especially where
the perill is in possibility to bee passed without death, and
in the performance thereof, the possession of such a prize
as the passionate person more esteemeth than lands, limbs,
or life it selfe, be it neuer so sweet. In which case (Madame)
my cause consisteth. For the Lady who was an heauenly
obiect to my gazing eyes, was so beautified with the giftes
of nature, and so perfectly polished with more than natu-
rall perfection, that with the onelie view of such diuine
beautie, my senses were so besotted, my wit and will so
inueigled, my affection so inflamed, and my fréedome so fet-
tered: yea, loue alreadie hath made so great a breach into
the bulwarke of my breast, that to obtaine so gorgious a
Goddesse, I thought death no daunger, though neuer so
direfull, nor losse of life no torment, though neuer so terri-
ble.

Indéed Gwydonius, (quoth Thersandro) I agrée with
thée in this point, that there is no carpet Knight so co-
wardly, that would not passe more perillous pikes to pos-
sesse so liuely a Dame as thou doest decipher, nor no da-
starde so daunted with dreade, which would not greatly
indanger himselfe to enioy so louely a damsell, in the fruiti-
on of whome consisteth nothing but ioy, blisse, rest, con-
tentation of minde, delight, happinesse, yea, all earthly
felicity.

And yet Sir (quoth Gwydonius) your Sister Casta-
nia condemnes me of folly, in venturing for so precious a
prize; when as hope perswaded me, that no hazard could
be hapelesse, and assured me that Loue and Fortune fauou-
reth them that are bolde: that the gods themselues seeing

my

my perplexed passions, wold of pitty defend me from those perilous daungers. For if Theseus by Diuine power, were ayded against the force of the monstrous Minotaure; or if Iason, who constrayned with a couetous desire to obtaine the golden Fléece, arriuing at Colchos, was preserued by the gods, from the dint of the deadly Dragons, no doubt Iupiter himselfe would eyther haue made the staggering bridge more strong (considering that no hope of wealth, no desire of riches, no grédinesse of gaine, no loue of lucre, but beauty her selfe was the victorie I meant to daunt off) or else if I had sowed in the roaring Seas, hee would haue prouided som happy Dolphin, that Arion like, I might arriue at the desired Rock: and then my daungers should haue béene turned into delight, my perils into pleasures, my hazarding into happinesse: yea, I should haue possessed that heauenly paragon, and enioyed the loue of that louely Venus, whose onely sight were a sufficient salue against all forepassed sorrowes.

Stay there, Master Gwydonius, quoth the Lady Melyta: for I see, to graunt one false proposition, is to open a doore to innumerable absurdities, and that by suffring you to long, of these supposed premises you will inferre some cauilling conclusion to your former reasons: thus I reply, That I confesse necessity to haue no law, but I grant not the same of Loue: for if it be lawlesse, it is leiude: if without limits, lasciuious: if contained within no bounds, beastly: if obserued with no order, odious: so that lawlesse Loue without reason, is the very Load stone to ruth and ruine.

Sith then Master Gwydonius, as your selfe affirme, this was the pricke that pusht you into perill, how can the effect be good, when the cause was naught: or how can you clarkely defend your desperate motion, proceeding of such a fond and swish occasion. But it was the perfection of her comely person, her exquisite feature, and rare beautie, that so kindled thy desire, and so bewitched thy senses: for who

is so fearefull, that beautie will not make bolde? who so doubtfull, that beauty will not make desperat? yea, what so hard that a man will not hazard, to obtaine so diuine a thing, as beauty.

Oh Gwydonius, hast thou not heard that the Fish Remora, listening to the sound of a Trumpet is caught of the Fishers, that while the Porcupine standeth staring at the glimmering of the starres, hee is ouertaken with dogges, that the Deere gazing at the bowe is striken with the bolt, that the Leopard looking at the Panthers painted skinne, is taken as a praie, and that hee which taketh too much delight to gaze vpon beauty, is oftentimes galled with griefe and misery? Yea, his pleasure shall inferre such profit, and his good will such gain, as if he reapt the beautifull apples of Tantalus, which are no sooner toucht, but they turne to ashes.

Beauty, Gwydonius, no sooner flourisheth but it fadeth, and it is not fully ripe before it begin to rot: it no sooner blossometh, but it withereth, and scarcely being toucht it stayneth, like to the Guyacum leafe, that hath the one halfe parched, before the other halfe be perfect: to the bird Acanthis, which hatched white, yet turneth blacke at the first storm: or like to the stone Astites, that chaungeth colour with the onely breath of a man.

If then Gwydonius, beautie bee so fading, so fickle, so momentary, so moning, so withering, so waning, so soone palled, and so sone parched: is this the Iewell, which you count more deare than life? and the Gemme which you think worthy to bee purchased with the danger of death? No doubt Gwydonius, if you won the victory, you might haunt of a great conquest, and if your long hope were repayed with a great hap, it should be much like to his, which thinking to embrace Iuno, caught nothing but a vanishing cloude.

You do well Madame (quoth Castania) to put an If, in it, because he that haunteth of victory before he hath wonne

the

fielde, may proue himselfe a sole: hee that brags of gaines before the accounts be cast, may perhappes put his winnings in his eies: and he that bloweth the Post before the fall of the Buck, may verie well misse of his fees: so he that counts himselfe a speeder before hee be a woer, sheweth himselfe a vaine person or a vaunting patch.

Might it not be I pray you Master Gwydonius, that passing the bridge, scaping the dangerous seas, and happily arriuing at the desired Rocke, yet you might misse of your purpose? Yes forsoth: for many a man bendeth his bowe, that neuer killeth his game, layeth the strap that neuer catcheth the fowle, pitcheth the Net that neuer getteth the fish, and long time are braue woers that neuer proue happie speeders.

So perhaps Gwydonius, you might be crossed with a chip of the same mischance, and the gorgious Dame whom you adore for a Goddesse, might repaie your liking with loathing, your loue with hate, your good will with despite, and your fred soncie with small affection, either that shee liked you to little, or loued another too much. All these doubtes Gwydonius, are carefully to be cast, & wisedome it is to feare the worst, and finde the best: but you sir, like a lustie champion, thinke a Ladie wonne at the first looke, and the good will of women gained at the first glance, thinking the Gods themselues are to be accused of iniustice, if they be not aders to your enterprise, insomuch that if in venturing ouer the perilous passage, you had by disaster Fortune fallen into the dangerous Seas, you doubted not but that Iupiter would haue sent a Dolphin, that Arion like, you might escape the fearefull surges: but Gwydonius be not so ventrous, least though you harpe verie long, you get not the like hap. These premisses considered, if my censure might stande for a sentence, I deeme it better to be counted a dastardly coward, than a desperate caitife, better to forsake your Goddesse, than your God, better to liue pinched with a fewe momentarie passions, than with

desperate death to destroy both soule and bodie: for there is no sore such, which in time may not be salued, no care such which cannot be cured, no fire so great which may not be quenched, no loue, liking, fancie, or affection, which in time may not either be repressed, or redressed.

Valericus hearing this rough reply of Castania, supposed that although she leuelled at Gwydonius, yet she shot at him: and fearing the sort should be too much shaken with this fierce assault: hee stiffly defended the walles with this fresh alarum.

Madame (quoth he) I see you will sit nigh the walles ere you be thrust out for a wrangler, and that you will speake against your owne conscience, but you will haue the conquest: for my owne part Madame, howsoeuer I seeme to like it, I will not say I mislike it, but I am sorie you Madame Melytta should so blaspheamously imblaze the armes of beautie, and so recklesly raile against the sacred lawes of loue: take heed for crossing Cupid so crabbedly: for though he forgiue and forget, Venus is a woman, and will seeke reuenge.

Valericus (quoth she) take no care what daunger I incurre for speaking the truth. If I chaunce to bee harmed, it is mine owne mishappe, and for Venus reuenge I care for it the lesse, because I feare it not: if I speake against my selfe, you may see I am the fitter to be a Iudge, because I am not partiall, nor haue any respect of persons.

These quips Madame (quoth Gwydonius) are nothing to the purpose: therfore in the behalfe of my selfe and beautie, thus I answere: That as there is nothing that so soone procureth a man to loath, as deformitie, so there is nothing which sooner procureth a man to loue than beautie: for the most precious stone is chosen by the most glistring hew, the purest gold by the most perfect colour, the best fruit by the braueſt blossomes, and the best conditions by the swee-

test

teſt countenance: ſo that where beautie raigneth, there vertue remaineth, and vnder a faire face reſteth a faithfull heart. Sith then beautie and bountie cannot bee parted, what man is he ſo brutiſh, whom the leaſt of theſe will not breake or bend?

And whereas you condemne me of vanitie in vaunting before the victorie, I ſaie, that if Fortune had ſo fauoured me, that I had gained the preſence of my Goddeſſe, I wold neuer haue doubted to haue obtained my deſire: for if ſhee had ſéene the deſperate daunger which I aduentured, and the fearefull perils which I paſſed for her ſake, ſhee could not but of conſcience, repaie my loue with vnfained loyaltie, and my good will with treble gaine. And in troth I thinke it vnpoſſible, that ſuch heauenly beautie ſhould bée eclipſed with crueltie, and ſuch perfect comelineſſe bee blemiſht with curious coynneſſe.

Why Gwydonius (quoth ſhe) doeſt thou call it crueltie not to condeſcend to the requeſt of euerie one that woeth? or doeſt thou tearme it coynneſſe, not to yéeld to the aſſault of euerie flattering louer? Then in my iudgment, it were good for euerie woman to be both cruell and coie, that by crueltie ſhe might auoide the traines of trotholeſſe lowers, & by coynneſſe eſchue the troupe of faithleſſe futors.

And ſo Madame (quoth Valericus) ſhe ſhould reape ſmall comfort and leſſe credit.

Tuth Signor Valericus (quoth Gwydonius) it pleaſeth her thus merilie to ieſt, whereas I know ſhe doth account more of a courteous dame, than of a curious damſell, and that her Ladiſhip ſo deteſteth the name of crueltie, that ſhe would be loth to be thought to haue a mind deuoid of mercie. And in troth to leaue theſe particular inſtances, women in generall, or for the moſt part, are bountifull, curteous, ſober, chaſte, demure, not imbrued with vice, but indued with vertue: ſo that by how much womens bodies are weaker than mens, by ſo much their mindes are more ſtrong and vertuous.

What Gwydonius, (quoth shee) doe you thinke to b
free man in Wales, for offering a Leeke to Saint Da
or to bring PAN into a fooles Paradise, by playing
Pipe?

Not so Madame (quoth hee) but I hope to extolli
a souldiours life to haue Saint George to my friend, an
giuing verdit with Venus, to gaine her good will, and
reape the reward that Paris had for his censure.

Mary sir (quoth Castania) if you haue no better gettin
you may gaine long trough, and yet liue by the losse: for
obtaining one friend, you shall reape two foes, as Pa
dio, who was more plagued by Pallas and Iuno, than pl
sured by flattering Venus.

And yet Madame (quoth hée) his mishap shall not ma
mée to beware: for if Venus would grant me but one L
dy in the world, whom most intirely I loue, I would n
ther respect Pallas, Iuno, nor Diana her selfe, were sh
neuer so despiteful.

Yes but you would (quoth shée) if she pinched you b
with Acteons plague, to peeker your head with as ma
horns as a Hart: It would cause you coniecture your ne
mistresse were too much giuen to the game, or that y
were come from Cornetto by descent.

Tush Madame (quoth hée) doe you count Acteons h
such a great harme? he onely sight in seeing Diana nake
was a recompence for all his insuing sorrowes: and if m
selfe might inioy my wish, and obtaine the heauenly da
that so heartily I desire, the plague of Acteon, nay, t
griping griefes the ghostly spirites doe suffer, should n
countervaile the ioy I should conceiue in inioying so pe
selfe a tewell.

Truly (quoth Thersandro) thou art worthy Gwyd
nius, to bée a Chapman, that thou bidst so well for t
chaffer: and in my mind shee is not in Alexandria, who
her beautie is so to bee loued, or at the least would dee
thee not worthy to be liked. But leauing these amor
d

diſcourſes, let vs hie vs in haſt to the Court, leaſt in tarying, Orlanio miſſe vs, and ſo we bée ſhent. The company obeying the minde of Therſander, paſſed as ſpédily as might be to the Palace, were being arriued, they departed euery man to his own lodging.

Caſſania had no ſoner conueied her ſelfe cloſely into ober chamber, but her mind was moued with a thouſand ſundry motions, and ſhe felt ſuch a cruell conflict in her happieſſe heart by the aſſault of diuers contrary paſſions, that how ſtoutly ſoeuer ſhée defended the walls, ſhée found her force too weake to reſiſt the rage of ſo reckleſſe a tyrant. Nowe the prayers Valericus powred forth came to effect, nowe Venus meant to be reuenged for the cruelty ſhe vſed to hir valiant captaine Valericus, who ſo valiantly had fought vnder the ſtagge of affection, & yet could by no meanes preuaile. For Caſſania hearing the ſugred eloquence, which ſo ſwetly flowed from the ſappie wit of Gwydonius, framing in her fancie the form of his face, and printing in her heart the perfection of his perſon, was ſo intangled in the ſnares of loue, as ſhe could by no reaſon redreſſe her miſerie, but wil ſhe, nil ſhe, fell into theſe bitter complaints.

ALas witleſſe wretch (quoth ſhée) that I am, what fiery flames of fancie do frie within mée? What deſire, what luſt, what hope, what truſt, what care, what deſpair, what feare, what furie? That to be pained with theſe perplexed paſſions, to me that neuer felt the force of them before, is no leſſe dolour than death it ſelf, beſt neuer ſo direfull. O gods, where are now become thoſe lofty lookes I vſed to Valericus? Where is the diſdainfull dealings, the coy countenances, the curious congies, the cauſeleſſe cruelty, yea the hard heart, which ſo rigorouſly reiected the loue of him, which ſo intirely liked mée? Could I fond ſole that I am, valiantly withſtand the aſſaultes of a worthie Gentleman, and ſhall I cowardly yeeld to an vnknowne ſtranger? Did I loath him, whoſe parentage was

little inferiour to mine, and shall I loue another of b
and vile birth? Did I disdaine to looke at the lure, and s
I now stoope without stall, come without call, yea and
such an emptie fish? O lawlesse Loue, O witlesse will,
fancie, fraught full of frenzie and furie! Alas if I shou
be so careless as to consent to this frantike toie, what w
they say, that praised me for my vertue? Will they not
fast dispraise me for my vanitie? Will not my father fr
my kinsfolkes crie out, my friends be sorrie, my foes a
especially Valericus, laugh me to scorne, and triumph
this my mishappe? Yes, will not all the world wonder
see me alate giuen to chastitie, and now shake hands wi
virginitie, to yéeld my dearest leiwell and chiefest treasu
into the hands of a straggling stranger, who came to my f
thers court without countenance or coine, wealth or wo
ship, credit or calling: yea, who by his owne report is bu
person of small parentage, Seek then Castania to allay
this flame, and to quench this fire, which as it comme
without cause so it will consume without reason. For t
greatest flowe hath the lowest ebbe, the sorest tempest ha
the most sodaine calme, the hottest loue hath his colde
end, and of the deepest desire oft times insueth the deadli
hate: so that shee which settles her affection with su
speede as she makes her choise without discretion, may ca
her corne she knowes not where, and reapes she wot no
what, and for her hastie choosing, may perhaps get a hear
bargaine. Alas, I know this counsaile is good, but wh
then? Can I deny that which the destinies haue decréed? I
it in my power to peruert that which ỹ Planets haue pl
ced? Can I resist that which is stirred vp by the Starres
No: what needs I then make this exclamation? sith I a
not the first nor shall not bee the last, whome the frantik
frenzy of flickering fancy, hath with more wrong & greate
vantage pitiously oppressed. What though Gwydonius
be not wealthy, yet hée is wise: though hee be not of gre
parentage, yet he is of comely personage. It is not b
coi

coine that hach conquered me, but his countenance: not his vading riches, but his renowned vertues, and I far more esteeme a man than mony. I, but the Duke my father is not so base minded, as to bestow me vpon so meane a gentleman, he neuer will consent that poore Gwydonius shold inioy that which he hopech some peerelesse Prince shall possesse. What then? Shall I preferre my Fathers will before mine owne will, his liking before mine owne loue? no, no, I will choose for my selfe whatsoeuer my choise be. Why but perchance Gwydonius wil no more esteeme thee than thou didst Valericus, and repay thee with as small fancie, as thou him with affection. Tush, doubt it not Castania, thou art the dame which hee so deciphered in his dreame, thou art that Venus which hee saw in his vision, thou art that Goddesse, whose beautie hach so bewitched him thou art that ie well to possesse, the which there is no hap so hard which he would not hazard, no danger so desperate which he would not aduenture, no burthen so heauy which he would not beare, nor no perill so huge which hee would not passe. And shall not then Gwydonius be my seruant, sith I am his Saint? shal not I like him which loueth me? sith he is my ioy, shal I not inioy him? yes, Gwydonius is mine, and shall be mine in despite of the fates & fortune.

Castania hauing thus pitifully powred out her plaints, would gladly haue giuen Gwydonius intelligence (with modestie if she might) of her good will towards him, and God knowes how fain Gwydonius wold haue discouered his seruant affection, if too much feare had not astonished him, and too great bashfulnes staied her. She therfore houering betweene feare & hope, perseuered so long in her pensiue passions and carefull cogitatiõs, that by couert concealing of her inward sorrow, the flame so furiously fried wit in her, ẏ she was constrained to keep her bed. Wher upon, Melytta coniecturing the cause of her care by the colour of her countenance, thought to sift out the occasion of her sorrow, that by this meanes she might apply a medicine to her malady,

and

and finding fit opportunitie, shée brake wich her in th
wise.

Madame Castania (quoth shée) since I haue by the Duk
your father béen assigned to you as a companion, I haue
such louing wise both comforted and counsailed you, as
hope you haue iust cause to say, that I haue most carefull
tendered your estate: for perceiuing how willing you we
to follow my direction I counted your wealth my weal
your pleasure my profite, your happinesse my ioy, and you
prosperitie my felicitie. Which freindly care if it were n
to be considered, if I should shew you what great sorrow
sustaine by your heauinesse, you would iudge my word
to procéed either of folly or flattery: but if your sore be su
as it may be salued, if your care may bee cured, if you
grief may be redressed, or your maladie mitigated by m
meanes, commaund me good Castania, in what I may
pleasure thee, & thou shalt find me so charily to perform m
charge, as my willing minde shall euidently bewray m
well meaning. I see Castania, of late, such a strange m
tamorphosis in thy minde, as for pleasant conceites th
doest vse pensiue cogitations, thy chéerfull countenance
chãged into lowring looks, thy merry deuises into mour
full dumps, and yet I cannot cõiecture the cause of this
dain alteration. If want of riches should worke thy wo
why, thou swimst in wealth: if losse of friends, thou hast i
finite of noble parentage, which loues thée most intirel
If thou meanest no longer to leade a single life, no doub
thy father will prouide thee of such a princely match, a
shall content thee for his person, & countenance thee wi
his parentage. But if in all these supposes I haue mist
marke, and haue not touch the case of thy calamitie, w
fold vnto me Castania; what the paine is that thus do
pinch thee, and assure thy selfe I will be so secret in thy a
faires, as euer Lampana was to her Ladie Cleophila.

Castania hearing this friendly discourse of Melytt
thought for all this faire glose, the text might bee too i
tricat

tricate, and that these painted speeches would proue but rotten pillers: fearing therfore the fetch, and doubting ẏ worst, if she bewray her mind, she framed her this answere.

MAdame (quoth she) the incomparable curtesie and vnfained friendship which since your first comming I haue found in you by experience, will neither suffer mée to suspect your Ladiship of flattery, nor my selfe willingly to be accused of ingratitude: for your diligence hath béene so great, and my desertes so small, that if I might but liue to requite some part of your good will, it were the second felicitie I looke for in this life. But touching the pensiue passions which thus diuersly perplexed me, I answer that as he which is wounded of the Bores tusk, if his sores take aire is very hardly healed, as hee which is striken with a Scorpion, if his wound take wind can neuer be cured: so Madam many inward maladies carry this nature. that if they bee once discouered, they are far ẏ more hardly recouered, that it is better to conceale them with griefe, than reueale them in hope of releefe.

Not so Castania, your principle is not true: for if your passions procéeded of loue, which of all other inward sores requireth greatest secrecie, yet vndoubtedly the more it is discouered, the sooner it is cured. For as the stone of Armenia being couered with Sand, burneth most extreamely, and no sooner taketh aire, but it cooleth: so the firie flames of loue caked vp in silence, fry most furiously; but being by discourse disclosed, they soone conuert from flame to fume and smoke. Wherfore good Castania impart vnto mée the matter which doth import thée so néere, and I sweare vnto thee by the sacred rites of Ceres, which is so honoured in Alexandria, that if thou doest loue where thy friends doe not like, and thy wish be contrary to their will, yet I will séeke all meanes possible to redresse thy sorrowe.

Alas good Madame, rather than you should thinke mee so incredulous or suspicious, as not to beléeue your oath, or

doubt of your ſecret dealing, I will without delay
you priuy to the cauſe of my paine, what perill ſoe
incurre by reuealing it. Know it is Melytta, that the p
tion of Gwydonius, his exquiſite qualities, & excellen
tues, haue ſo fiercely aſſaulted the fort of my fancy, as
perforce conſtrained to reſigne my liberty captiue vn
curteſie, & to make his perſon the priſon of my heart.
lucklelſe & vnlikely loue, Madam, is the cauſe of my c
the ſum of my ſorrow, this frantike affection hath driue
droping heart to ſhew forth theſe drouſie lookes, thi
which hath made me an enemy to my ſelfe, a foe to all
company, and to delight in nothing but ſorrow and ſol
nelle: yea, this is the ſore, which if in time it be not ſa
will preuent by death all other miſeries.

And is this (quoth Melytta) the pain that ſo greatly
plereth you? Is this the care that ſo cumbers your c
ence? Is this the danger which driues you into ſuch
diſtreſſe? Do you think ſo ſuperſtitiouſly of Gwydoni
ſo abiectly of your ſelfe, that you deem this matter im
ble to be brought to paſſe? no, no, doubt not Caſtania,
ſelfe dare abſolutely promiſe thee, that thy loue ſhall
ſuch happie ſucceſſe, as thou thy ſelfe doeſt lieke for.

And with that Melytta ſtayed by a ſodaine ſight th
of that Saint that Caſtania ſo hartily ſerued: for Gw
nius was entring in at the chamber doore with a diſh
licates, which Orlanio hearing his Daughter was ſo
had ſent her. Melytta ſeeing that Cupid began to fau
cauſe of his Clients, in giuing them ſuch fit oppertuni
diſcouer their cares, went her waie, leauing Gwydo
the firſt man to play his part in this tragicall comedy,
ſeeing his goddeſſe thus ſurpriſed with ſickneſſe, w
galled with griefe, ſo pinched with helliſh paſſions, a
tortured with extreame torments, that his colour beg
change, & he fetcht a deep ſigh or two, which Caſtani
ring. She perceiued without touching his pulſes, the
of theſe his ſodain paſſions. In fine, ſuch melancholik

tions so amazed his minde, that he was almost mute in his message, yet at length incouraging himselfe, hée presented it vnto her in this wise.

Madame (quoth he) the Duke your Father hearing of your sodaine sickenesse, in token of his fatherly affection, amongst all his dainties, hath sent you this dish, which hee thinks most méet for your diet, wishing your Lavishp to let no doubtfull motions distresse your minde, nor no carefull thoughts cumber your conscience: for you shall lacke nothing if you reveale to him your want, which either your will or wish can desire. And truly Madame, to manifest my willing duety (if the praiers of a poore Gentleman may be heard of the heavenly Gods) I wish that before you taste of this lode it may torne to Nectar, whereby not only your sicknesse should be salued, but your divine beautie and vertue according to desert should be crowned with immortalitie.

Castania perceiving with what fervent affection Gwydonius uttered those wordes, began to chére vp her selfe, in hope that her good will should not be repaied with ingratitude: taking therefore the present at his handes, and liking it never the worse for his sake that brought it, she returned him this replie.

Gwydonius (quoth she) as I have cause most reverently to accept of my fathers loving curtesie, and to repay his naturall affection with most dutifull obedience, so I have cause to thanke thee for thy paines, and to thinke well of thée for thy wish, promising in recompence of thy good will, if in anye respect I may pleasure thee, to séeke and sue to my father for preferment.

Madame, I account the performance of my message no paine, but pleasure, and I thinke my selfe as much honored by this office, & thrice more happy than if I should in Ganimedes place present ỹ cup to Iupiter. But Madame, sith ỹ to stop the streame, is to make the flood flow more fiercelie, to represse the fire, is to make it flame more furiously,

and to reſtraine the force of loue, is to kindle a greater flame, leaſt too long delaie ſhould breede too great daunger, and by concealing my ſorrow I ſhould make the ſore incurable, I thought good either preſently to heare the curteous ſentence of my life, or the cruell doome of my death. So it is Madame, that too long gazing vppon the beames of your heauenly beautie, and too narrowly conſtruing ouer your vertuous conditions, I remaine ſo caught in ỹ ſnare of your bountie, and ſo thralled in the threede of your vertue, that the ſtaie of my life hangeth in your hands, either to driue mee downe to hellish miſerie, or to hoiſt mee vp to heauenly felicitie. For although I haue not heretofore by dutifull ſeruice made manifeſt the loyaltie of my loue, yet ſince I firſt framed in my fancie (as in a mirrour) the ſhape of your ſurpaſſing beautie, my heart hath bene croſſed with ſuch cruell Camizados for your ſake, as if with the Target of hope I had not withſtood the furious force of ſuch raging furies, I had by deſpaire bene dashed againſt moſt dangerous rockes. Sith then Madame, the light of your ſweete face hath faſt fettered my fancie in the links of loue, ſo as without your means I can neither be releaſed nor releaſed: I humbly deſire you neither to refuſe the motion of my well meaning, nor to reiect the deuotion of my good will, but to accept your poore Gwydonius as a faithfull ſeruant.

Caſtania hearing diligently the faithfull diſcourſe of diſtreſſed Gwydonius, perceiuing by his ſighs the pinching ſorrow of his thoughts, and ſeeing him ſo faſt fettered in follie, on a ſodaine to giue her the ſlip, had that ſhee deſired: and now her louing lookes were turned to louing glances, her delightfull curteſie, to diſdainfull coineſſe, and ſhe thought to repaie the ſweete meate wherewith before ſhe fed him, with moſt ſowre ſauce: not that ſhe miſliked of his loue, for it was the onelie thing ſhe deſired, but to make him the more ſeruent in affection, vttering theſe or ſuch like words to her ſelfe ſecretly.

And

And is not (Caſtania) the victorie moſt accounted of, where the conqueſt is moſt doubtfull? Is not the Caſtle which abideth the longeſt batterie, thought the richeſt boutie? Are not thoſe pearles which are ſcarcely founde and hardly gotten, euer of greateſt value: whatſo is gained by perill, is thought alwaies precious, hardly come by, warily kept. The maide that by long ſute and much trauell is obtained, by how much the more ſhe was hard in the winning, by ſo much the more ſhe will be ſweet in the wearing: ſhe which in her virginitie is charie of her chaſtitie, in her marriage will be as warie of her honeſtie: therefore I will qualifie the hot loue of Gwydonius with a colde potion, and with that ſhe made him this waſpiſh anſwere.

Why Gwydonius, ſhall the old Prouerbe be verified in thee, that the Prieſt forgets himſelfe that euer hee was a clarke, that too much familiaritie breedes contempt? I ſée well if Apelles that cunning painter ſuffer the greeſie Souter to take a view of his curious worke, he will grow ſo malapert, as to meddle with his picture: if the proude Centaure Ixion be bidden to the feaſt of the Gods, no leſſe than Iuno her ſelfe will ſuffice him for his choiſe.

Set a beggar on horſebacke they ſaie, and he will neuer alight. Extoll one of baſe ſtocke to any degrée of dignitie, and who ſo proude and haughtie? I ſpeake it Gwydonius to thy reproche: is thy ſtomake alate waxen ſo queaſie, that nó dyet will downe but my fathers owne diſh? Will no meaner mate ſuffice thee, vnleſſe thou match with a Princeſs? Is there no Ladie will like thee, but my loue? Is there no courtier Dame to court, vnleſſe thou court vnto me? Did my father promote thée to this thou art, from the ſtate of a beggar, and wilt thou now preſume to be my better? Haue my lookes béene ſo louing, my countenance ſo courteous, my glances ſo full of good will, as to promiſe ſo much as thou dareſt preſume? No: but one onely countenance in a ſeruile minde is too much incouragement. Doeſt thou thinke Gwydonius, that I account ſo meanly

of my person, as to match with a man of thy pitch? Shall I so far cracke my credit, as to cumber my selfe with one of thy calling? Shall I so straine my state, as to stoope to thy lure? No. Where is thy coine to maintaine my countenance? Where is thy wealth to vpholde my worship? Where is thy patrimonie to counteruaile my personage? But put case I accepted of thy suite, doest thou thinke euer to gaine my fathers good will? Doest thou thinke it is possible to compasse his consent? Doest thou hope euer to take him in such a vaine, as he will bee willing to giue his verdite on thy side? No Gwydonius: but if he were priuie to this thy presumption, he would repaie thy follie with too much furie, he would vnplume thee of all his feathers, that like Aesops Crow thou mightest receiue the reward of thy rashnesse. If therefore thou loue thine owne welfare, kéep thy selfe within thy boundes, and striue not farther than thy skéine will stretch, least in climing too high, thou catch the lower fall.

Castania hauing thus sharply shaken vp my pong youth Gwydonius, thought she had giuen him a sufficient coling Card: but he no whit dismaied with this deniall, like a lusty champion entered pell-mell with her in this wise.

Madame (quoth he) the poore shoomaker was not blamed for viewing Apelles picture, but because in finding fault he went beyond his shooe: the Centaure Ixion was not reproued for his familiaritie with Iuno as he was a guest, but in that his suite tended to the lacking of her honestie: familiaritie neuer breeds contempt in a good mind, neither am I to be accused of that crime: for the most seruile slaue in Alexandria (I call the heauens as witnesses of my words) doth not with more loning dutie reuerence & honour your person & parentage, than doth your poore seruãt Gwydonius. Well Madame, though my nature and nurture be such in your sight, as they bewray my bringing vp and birth to be so base, as if I meane to drawe my descent, I must (as you say) imblaze mine armes in the beggars coat,

yet

yet thus much I answere in respecte of my Parents, and without arrogancie thus farre I stand on my pantofles, that the credite I haue in your fathers Court, is not coequall with the calling I haue in mine owne Countrie, if I did not count it more greater credite and honour, in that I haue sometime enioyed a courteous countenance of your sweete selfe since my comming. But if I were the most famous Prince in the world, I so esteeme your diuine beauty and exquisite vertue, as I would thinke my selfe farre vnworthy to possesse such heauenly perfection: which if I could obtain, the displeasure of your Father could no whit discourage mee, his thundering threats coulde no whit amaze mee: no, death it selfe could neuer dannt my minde, were it neuer so despightfull. But who (say you) can say their lone where is no desert, and where want bredes a flat denial?

Ah Castania, Nature by her secret motion hath indued all creatures with some perfect qualities, to supply ỳ want which breeds misliking. The Moale depriued of sight hath a wonderful hearing: the Hare being very fearefull is most swift: the Fish hauing no eares, hath most cleare eyes: so though want of dignitie disgrace me, though want of coin discountenance me, though lacke of wealth impaires my credit, yet Nature hath giuen me such a loyall and louing heart, as I hope in the perfection of that, shee hath supplyed the want of all the rest: So that Madam though I want coine, I do not want constancy, though I haue no lands, yet I lack not loyaltie, though I want wealth yet I want not will to end my life to do you good, or spende my time to do you seruice.

Gwydonius hauing thus pithily replyed, draue Castania into a great doubt, whether shee should presently consent to his demand, or still driue him off with delayes, whether shee should yeelde the fort at the first skirmish, or stand to the doubtfull euent of battayle: at length least shee

should

ſhould digreſſe from the courſe of womankind, ſhe thought beſt to denie that ſhee moſt of all deſired, and therefore then gaue him this anſwere.

GWydonius (quoth ſhée) in what ſtate you came to my Fathers Court I knowe, what you are by diſcent I knowe not, nor I care not, and if I did it auaileth not: but this I ſay, that it is hard taking of Fowls, when the net is deſcried, and il catching of fiſh, when the hoak is bare: impoſſible it is Gwydonius, to inſer beléefe, when no credit will be giuen, and to deceiue her that ſpieth thy ſetch: when the ſtring is broken, it is hard to hit the white, and when a mans credit is called in queſtion, perſwaſions can little preuaile. It is a religion amongſt louers to ſweare and forſweare, to promiſe mountains, and to performe moule hils, to be ripe without and rotten within, to carrie a ruſty blade in a velvet ſcabbard, and a ſlouer bell with a leaden clapper. Therfore Gwydonius, I had rather miſtruſt too ſoone, than miſlike too late, I had rather feare my choice than rue my chance, I had rather ſtop at the brim, than at the bottom: for the ſignet being ſet, it is too late to breake the bargain, and fancy being once fixt, it is too late to reclaime affection. For the loue of a woman is like the Opie of Flint, which being once congealed will neuer be diſſolued: like the Diamond, being once rubbed with the gum of a Pine tree, will neuer be broken: ſo if I fancy any, ſuch I mean not to ſlée, it ſhall be ſuch a one, as I néed not repent mée.

And whereas you ſay, Gwydonius, that in deſpight of Fortune, Nature hath giuen you a louing heart, I my ſelf ſurely did neuer déem any leſſe, but thought you of the crue of thoſe louers that loue too much, hauing as manie Ladies as they haue wits, and that is not a fewe, who count that euery face muſt haue a newe fancie, and if they ſée a thouſand they muſt be all viewed with a ſigh: which conſidered Gwydonius, I mean not to like nor to loue neither you nor any other.

And

AND shall then Madame (quoth hée) my merite bée repayed with no meede? Shall my good will be requited with no gaine? shall I haue in lieu of my life no liking? will you so swarue from iustice, as not to giue euery one according to his desert? at the least, recompence not desire with despight; and hearty loue, with loaching hate: for as the Poet saith: Quis enim succenset amanti?

Well Gwydonius, as I will not be thy priuie friend, so I will not be thine open foe, and as I cannot be so curteous as to requite thee for thy pains, so I will not be so cruell as to despight thee for thy presumption, and whereas thou crauest gaines for thy good will, I am content to remaine thy vnwilling debter.

Yet Madame (quoth hée) where the debt is confest, there remaineth some hope of recouery: for though the creditor bee neuer so vnwilling to pay the debt being due, hée shall by constraint of law and his own confession, (maugre his face) be forced to make restitution.

Truth Gwydonius (quoth shée) if he commence his action in a right case, and the plea he puts in, proue not imperfect. But yet take this by the waie, it is hard for that plaintiffe to recouer his costes, where the defendant béeing Iudge, sets downe the sentence.

Gwydonius féeling himselfe pincht to the quicke with this prettie quip, made no further reply: but least his long tarrying might bréed suspicion, wishing his Mistris welfare, tooke his leaue very solemnly and sorrowfully, of Castania, who séeing him gone and her selfe alone, began thus to muse and meditate vpon the sharpe answeres shee had giuen her best beloued Guydonius.

WHy Castania, what frantike fally hath made thée thus far to forget thy selfe? Is the bird inticed to the strap by the shewe of the nets, is the Fox allured to the train by the view of the trap? wil the Mouse march vnder

that Ensigne, where the Catte proclaimeth her selfe Captaine? will the sillie Doue laie her Egges in the Fawlcons neast? or is it the meanes to haue him to thy friend, whom with bitter blowes thou doest rebuke? is there no other call for curtesie, but cruelties? doest thou finde no fitter meanes to obtaine a reasonable request, but by a rigorous repulse? or is it the nature of women to desse that outwardly which they most desire inwardly, to loath that in their mouth, which they loue in their minde, to reiect that with their hand, which they most willingly would receiue in their heart? Doest thou thinke Castania, to drawe Gwydonius to thy desire, by detesting him? Doest thou think to allure him to thy loue, by loathing him? Doest thou suppose to win him to thy will by these waspish answeres? No: and what, doest thou know what perill will ensue of this repulse, what daunger will follow of this deniall? Is it like he will put it by patiently? No sure, either loke to haue his extreame loue turned to extreame hate, or that he will persist no longer in the pursute of his purpose. Oh would to God Gwydonius, thou wert againe to begin thy demaund, and I to frame mine answere: then would I salue thy sores with sweete strops, not with cutting corasiues: then would I mitigate thy maladie with easie medicines, not with pinching plaisters: then would I comfort thee with consent, not daunt thee with denials. But alas, had I wist now comes too late: and therefore Castania, if thou hast made a faulte, seeke to make amendes, and recompence this his iniurie with most friendly curtesie.

And with that came Melytta: who comforting Castania, passed away the rest of the day in parle.

But Gwydonius, who all this while had a flea in his eare, was drawen into a quandarie with the tasting gulps of his mistresse, fearing that although his accounts were great, his gaines should be little; and though he made a verie long haruest, yet he should reape but a very smal crop,

thinking

thinking that vnder such sowre speeches, a fingred minde could not bee contayned: yet at last entering into deeper consideration with himselfe, hee fell into these tearmes.

But by the sweete (quoth hee) how should we knowe the sower? but by the blacke, how should wee knowe the white? hee never greatly accounteth of prosperitie which hath not been before pinched with aduersitie: which perchaunce Castania meanes to make me trie by experience, thinking to séede mee first with bitter broaths, that hereafter dainty fare may more delight mee: to daunt mée with the raging stormes of denial, that the calme of her consent may more content mée: to make mée taste the bitter pilles of annoy, that hereafter I may inioy the greater ioy: for the chilling colde of winter makes the sprowting spring time séeme farre more pleasant, the parching heate of sommer, makes the cole shade more delightfull, and the frowning looks of Castania, will make her smiling countenãce séeme more chéerful. Then cease not Gwydonius, to pursue thy suite with endlesse paine, eyther to enioy her curtesie or taste of her cruelty, to thy great happines or extream heauinesse.

GWydonius thus like a valiant Champion, never amazed with any chip of misfortune, never feared to giue the assault for all the first repulse, but onely sought opportunity how he might in close combate once again incounter with Castania; vowing eyther to returne with some signe of victory, or else to put limme and life in hazard. But fortune meaning pleasantly to sport with this young nouice, would never minister such fit occasion, ỹ he might haue solitary accesse to his goddesse. For, Castania of prettie purpose to worrie anoyed his company, and with such disdainfull lookes so reiected his suite, as Gwydonius was constrained to seek his course by a new compasse, deliuering vnto one of her maids a friendly Letter, with effect.

Diſdained Gwydonius to his deſired Caſtania, health.

WHoſo taſteth (Madam Caſtania) of the riuer Licos in India, feeleth ſuch a continual flame to ſcie & fret his entrailes, as it is more torture than to be tormented with the helliſh furies, and this griefe can neuer be redreſſed, but with drinking the blood of his deereſt friend. And as he that is venomed with the Phalanga, feeleth ſuch painful paſſions, as he runneth mad, and is onely cured by means of moſt harmonious muſicke: So Madame, the furious heate of fancy, doth ſo ſcorch and ſcalde my hapleſſe heart, and doth perplexe me with ſuch helliſh pangues, as death it ſelfe were thrice more deſired, than thus to driue my dayes in dolour. And I haue ſo greedily ſwallowed vp the lugred poyſon of your diuine beautie, as through the extremity of pinching griefe, which ſo direfully diſtreſſeth mee, I reſt as one diſtract from his ſenſes, not poſſible to obtain a cure for this my calamitie, vnleſſe with the deawe of mutuall affection you mitigate my maladie, or with the pleaſant harmonie of your muſicall conſent, you appeaſe my miſery.

Sith then Madam, my care proceedeth from your beautie, let my ſore be cured by your bounty: ſith the perfection of your perſon hath wrought my bane, let the effect of your courteſie procure my bliſſe, and reiect him not ſo rigorouſly which reſpecteth you ſo reuerently: loath him not ſo hatefully, which loueth you ſo heartily: nor repay not his dutifull amity, with ſuch deadly enmitie. The pike fatally proſecuteth the fiſh Maugra, as his mortall foe, and yet ſeeing him ingraued on the fiſhers hooke, he ſpeedily ſhreddeth the line in ſunder, to deliuer him: the Snake moſt deadly deteſteth the field-mouſe, and yet ſhe keapeth vp in her hole ſtore of proviſion to preuent her enemies penurie: and ſhall then Madame, your cruelitie ſo farre exceede

theſe

these senseleſſe creatures: shall your rigour be so voyd of reason, as to requite your friend with paine, when they repaie their foes with pleasure: to driue your friends into distresse, when they redéme their foes from danger: no Madame, I hope you will not counteruaile my constancy with such discurtesis, nor so reckleſly regarde your poore Gwydonius, whose loue and loyalty is so great, that as the stones which are found in the Riuer Lynceſtis, the lowder the winde bloweth, and the déeper they are drenche in the water, the more they burne and blaze: so the more you seek to coole my fancy with disdaine, the more my affection is kindled with desire: the more you loath, the more I like: the greater despayre you driue me into by denials, ỹ greater hope, (incouraged by constancie) I haue to obtain my requeſt: in which feruent affection, I meane to remayne without chaunge, craning in lieue of this my loyaltie, that you will spéedily send the messenger of present consolation, to him which pineth away, and is yours onely and euer.

Still in hope, Gwydonius.

CAstania hauing receiued this Letter from her assured friend Gwydonius, although she perceiued by the cõtents that his loue was not counterfait, but constant: not light, but loyall: not floting, but faithfull: and that shee should not finde him immutable in prosperitie, which was so permanent in aduersity; Yet (whether it were for coynesse in consent, or charinesse of choyse I know not) shee once againe thought to sound him more déeper, to kéep out still the flagge of defiance, and to spend one Woller of shot in the face of her enemy, to see if a hot skirmish would make him flie the fielde. And if like a valiant souldier hee did manfully march on, and not refuse the brunt of the battaile, she would then resigne the fort of her fraudome into his hands, and yéeld vp the bulwarke of her breast, which

so long he had battered, that triumphantly he might set vp Trophees in signe of most victorious conquest. To put therefore the matter in question, shee returned him this answere.

Castania to Gwydonius, which hopeth in vaine, health.

MAster Gwydonius, your Letter being more hastily receiued then heartily read, I perceiue by the contents that you are still perplexed with your pen-sicke passions, and that your disease is incurable: for if your paines may bee appealed, or your maladie mitigated by no medicine but by my means, you are like either to pay your due vnto death, or still to linger in distresse. My cunning is too small to enterprise the composition of any secret simples, and my calling too great to become a Physition to such a paltering patient, so that I neyther can nor will cure another mans harm by mine owne mishap. To loue him whom I cannot like, were but to wrestle against mine owne will, to flatter him whom I mean not to fancie, is but a mere tricke of extreame folly. What the cause is Gwydonius, that thy good will reaps so small gain, and that so rigorously I repaie thy loue with hate, I know not, vnlesse the constellation of the Starres by some secret influence haue so appointed it in the calculation of our nativety. But this I am sure, that as no Serpent can abide the smell of a Harts horne, as the Panther escheweth the companie of the Dwnce, as the Vulture is mortall enemy to the Eele, and as it is impossible to hatch vp a Swan in an Eagles neast, to temper Oyle and Pitch together in one vessell, to mixe the blood of a Lyon and a Mouse in one bowle, and to procure amitie betweene the Falcon called Tilo, and the Fore, so hard is it to procure mee by ruthfull request to be thy friend, which am by instinct of nature thy professed foe: and as hard to winne me to thy Wife, who so little likes

likes of thy loue, that the verie remembrance of thy perſon makes me fall into moſt hateſull paſſions. Ceaſe then Gwydonius, to condemne me of cruelitie, and leaue off at laſt to appeale to my curteſie: for thou ſhalt alwaies be ſure to ſéele the one, and neuer to finde the other. Yet leaſt thou ſhouldeſt accuſe me of ingratitude, though I cánot inwardly mitigate thy miſerie, yet I will outwardly teach thee to apply ſuch plaiſters (as if the experience of them proue true) ſhall greatly appeaſe thy paine. Plinie, Gwydonius, reporteth, that he which drinketh of the riuer Auerna, coleth and mortifieth his affections; but if the water be touched by any meanes before it be drunke, the vertue thereof is of no value. He that weareth the feathers of the bird Ezalon about him, ſhall euer be fortunate in his loue, but if they be not puld when the Sunne is eclipſed, they are of no force: and to conclude, there is nothing that ſooner driueth away amorous conceites, then to rub the temples of thy head with the ſweat of an aſſe: which if you can performe it, as no doubt you may put it in practice, I hope you ſhalbe releaſed from your intolerable griefe, and I releaſed from ſuch an importunate ſute.

Forced by the deſtinies ſtill to denie thee, Caſtania.

GWydonius hauing vieweđ reuieweđ ouer this Letter, ſéeing the rigorous reſolutiõ of his miſtreſſe could by no meanes be removed, and that a moſt ſeuere ſentence was pronounced againſt him by a moſt iniurious Iudge, was driuen into a doubt whether he ſhould ſtill cõ plaints ſue for pittie, or elſe blaſphemouſly exclaime againſt her brutiſh cruelitie, whether he ſhold bewray his parents and parentage to the Duke and her, or ſtill ſtand to the doubtfull chance of fortune, to purſue his purpoſe ſtill cõ plaints: her helliſh cruelitie perſwaded him to blaſpheme againſt her: the ſincerítie of his loue, would not let him to bewray

his

his birth: diuers dangers might insue: to stand to the chance of Fortune, was still to hazard without hope: combred thus with diuers cogitations, at last he determined to breake vp the batterie, and to lay to an inuincible hold, and to returne with as much spéed, as might be to his father Clerophontes Court, there by absence to mittigate the malady which so grieuously molested him: yet he thought before his departure to giue her a friendly farewell, that might both confirme his constancy, and condemne her cruelty, which he framed to this effect.

Guydonius to Castania, prosperous succesſe in all her affaires.

I Meane not, most mercilesse mistresse, any longer to sue for mercie, nor with pittifull plaints to trouble your patience, sith to stirre that which the Starres hath staied, is to striue against the streame, and to force that which the Fates haue framed, is to couet to bee counted a fole: but as one whom Fortune meanes to make a mirrour of misery, and ouer whom Venus her selfe meanes to daunt as of a most hapleſſe vassall, I sorrowfully send you this fainting farewell, as a faithfull token of my feruent affection: for séeing neither my person cã pleaſe, nor my liuing like you, nor my base calling content you, nor I my selfe reape anie guerdon for my good will; to auoide the remembraunce of these passions, which renue my paines, and to allwage the rigour of my raging loue, I purpose as spéedily as winde and weather will permit me, to abandon the place of your abode, not incensed by furie, as one in despight, but inforced by the rage of fancie, to depriue my selfe of all delight, either to consume in solitary cares without compassion, or by absence to mitigate some part of my martyrdome: for to hope still, I sée is but to heape woe vpon wretchednesse, and care vpõ calamity. Yet Madame, thus much I say, that Dido Quéene of Carthage loued Aeneas, a banished exile,

and

and a ſtragling ſtranger. Euphinia daughter to the king of Corinth, and heire apparant to his crowne, who for her feature was famous throughout all the Eaſt Countries, vouchſafed to apply a ſoueraigne plaiſter to the furious paſſion of Achariſto, her fathers bondman. The dutcheſſe of Malphey choſe for her husband her ſeruant Vlrico: and Venus, who for her ſurpaſſing beautie was canonized for a goddeſſe, diſdained not the loue of limping Vulcan. They madame, reſpected the man, & not their money, their wils, and not their wealth: their loue, not their liuings: their cõſtancy, not their coine: their perſon, not their parentage: & the inward vertue, not the outward value. But you are ſo addicted to your opinion of Danae, that vnleſſe Iupiter himſelfe be ſhrouded in your lap, vnder the ſhape of a ſhower of gold, he ſhall haue the repulſe, for all his deitie: ſeeing then it is not in my poore power, eyther to performe or practiſe it, I ceaſe off to ſeeke for impoſſibilities: promiſing in what coaſt or Country ſo euer I ſhall remain, to haue my heart wholly dedicated to your diuine beautie and vertue, both by dutie and ſeruice, and ſo commending my health to the gods, I bid you farewell.

Yours, while he is Gwydonius,
ſans eſpoier.

CAſſania hauing receiued this letter from Gwydonius, perceiuing the conſtant mind of the yong Gentleman, that theſe his proteſtations were not vanitie, but veritie: not trifling, but troth: no ſignes of fleeting fancie, but of a firme affection: ſtanding a while in a dumpe, at laſt ſhe fell into this diſcourſe.

I know (quoth ſhe) both ſee and trie by experience, that there is no fiſh ſo fickle, but will come to the bayt: no Doe ſo wild, but will ſtand at the gaze: no Hawke ſo haggard, but will ſtope at the lure: no Neſtle ſo ramage, but will be reclaimed to the Lures: no fruite ſo fine, but the Cater-

piller will consume it: no Adamant so hard but will yéeld to the file, no metall so strong, but will bende to the stampe: no mayd so fráe, but loue will bring her to bondage and thraldome. And do I call it bondage, fond fole, to be bound vnto beauty? is it slauery to bee subiect vnto vertue? is it thraldome to liue in league with him who will like mee in my pouch, and loue me in my age, in whom I shall find nothing but pleasure and contentation? who will be the hauen of my happinesse, wherein I may rest: the port of my prosperity wherein I may bee safe harboured from the tempests of froward fortune, and shroud meee from the bitter blasts of bale? Shal I repent me, sith my bargain is good? or complaine of the losse of libertie, sith I haue a chaunge for farre more worthy chaffer? Shall I grudge when the gods are agréed? or deferre it, when the destinies driue it? or frowne at it, sith fortune frames it? No: Gwydonius, is my Saint, and him will I serue; hee is my ioy, and him will I inioy. He hath laid the siege, and hee shall lacke the Citie: he hath abode the batterie, and he shall haue the bulwarke of my breast: he hath fought the combat, and he shall be victor in the conquest. For I cannot be so vnnaturall, to reward his loue with loathing: so without reason, to defraud him of his right: so diuelish, for his dépe desire to giue him a dolefull dish of despaire. No, no, I haue settled with my selfe, that if euer I marry, Gwydonius shalbe the man I will match with. And therefore as I haue driuen him off with delayes, and led him with folly, so now I wil send him a settled answere of my good will and fauour: as I haue giuen him cutting corasiues, so I will send him confects of comfort. As I haue bene fearefull to shewe my liking for the better tryall: so now I will be bolde to shewe my loue in token of a better trust. And with that she wrote him a Letter to this effect.

Castania

Castania to Gwydonius, wishing him such happie succesſe, as either fortune or the fates can allow him.

PLato, Gvvidonius, being demanded why hée would neuer condescend to requests of his most dearest friends, without great entreatie and long suite, answered, ỳ things lightly granted (though neuer so costly) are smally accounted of: which saying Gvvidonius, I take as a sufficient excuse for my follie: for my straightnesse in woordes was no straungenesse in minde, my bitter spéeches were written with my hand, not wrought with my heart, my deniall was onely for thy better tryall, and those rigorous repulses were either to rip vp thy fained fancie, or fervent affection: for if thou hadst retired at the first foyle, I wonlde haue thought thy fancie but a flash, ready to be quenched with the least milling deaw of misfortune. But since thou hast kept thy course so rightly by the compasse, amidst most daungerous rockes, and hast stode to thy tackling against all the blustering blasts of Fortune; Assure thy selfe, in lieu of this thy loue, thou hast not héeretofore found mée so disdainfull, as héereafter thou shalt finde me dutifull, neither did I euer reiect thée so churlishly, as I will accept thée courteously, béeing ready to restore the iniury I haue offered thée, with any curtesie that thou mayest either honestly require, or I iustly afford. But alasse Gwydonius, what curtesie shall I euer be able to shew thée, that may countervaile thy kindnesse? How entirely shall I loue thée to requite thy loyaltie? What duetie can bee a due recompence to this thy good will? yea, if by any meanes I can quit this thy loue, I neuer doubt to bee déemed ingratefull while I liue. Thy worthy constancie (Gvvidonius) hath won the castle which many haue besieged, and thou hast obteined that which diuerse haue sought to gaine: yet it is not the shape of thy beautie, but the hope of thy loyaltie,

altie, which entiseth me: not thy faire face, but thy faithfull heart: not thy comly countenance, but thy modest curtesie: not thy wordes, but thy vertues: not thy wealth, but thy wit: for she that builds her fancy vpon such fading subiects, tieth her loue to the inconstant wheele of Fortune. And what though the duke my father bee incensed against me, for making (in his mind) so carelesse a choise? What care I for his friendship, so I haue thy fauour: let him fret, let my friends frowne, let liuings be lost, hap what hap will, no misling shoures of mischãce, no boysterous blasts of aduersitie, no terrible tempest of disaster fortune, shall make my constant minde in any respect to mooue: no torments, no trauaile, no care, no calamitie, no penurie, no pouertie, no, onely the losse of life, shal diminish my loue: in lieu whereof remaine thou but constant, and in pledge of my protested good will, haue héere my heart and hand, to be thine in dust and ashes.

Thine, though the Gods say no,
Castania.

THis Letter béeing most luckily deliuered into the hands of Gwydonius, I leaue you to iudge Gentlemen into what a quandarie this yong youth was brought, to sée such a sodaine change, and so happie a chaunce, as to haue his hellish bale requited with heauenly blisse, his despightfull annoy, with delightfull ioy: his heauinesse with happinesse, and doubtfull despaire turned to assured hope: to sée Fortune which of late defied him as a foe, nowe to imbrace him as a friend, and to will that hee did wish: to sée his mistresse cruelties turned to curtesie, her disdaine to desire, her bitter pilles to sugered potions, her stormie repulses to calme consent, and her contemptuous protestations, to most constant promises. For if the carefull captiue, who by the dome of the Iudge expecteth each houre to die, reioyceth when he heareth his pardon pronounced, no doubt

Gwydonius

Gwydonius ioy could be no lesse, sith denial was his death, and consent the conserue to heale his woundes: the greater care, the greater ioy: the more paine, the greater pleasure: the more hellish miserie, the more heauenly felicitie. Yea, Gwydonius was driuen into such an extasie for ioy, that he was in doubt, whether this Letter was preferred to him indéede, or presented to him in a vision: whether he were rapt into a traunce, or rauished with some drowsie slumber: but at last perceiuing it to be no fained fantasie, such a déep desire inforced his affection, as he thought euerie moment a moneth, euerie houre a yeare, euerie day a thousand, vntill he might freely enioy the presence & sight of his loue and Ladie Castania. Fortune meaning to aduance him to the toppe of her inconstant wheele, brought it so to passe, that before the woorke was ended, he spied Castania walking alone in the garden: which sodain sight so reuiued his senses, that without any dread or doubt, he mãfully marcht on towards her, and was as hastily and hartily incountred by Castania: who embracing Gwydonius in her armes, welcommed him with this salutation:

As the Whale (Gwydonius) maketh alwaies signe of great ioy at the sight of the fish called Talpa Marina, as ỳ Hinde greatly delighteth to sée the Leopard, as the Lyon fawneth at the view of the Unicorne, & as he which drinketh of the Fountaine Hipenis in Scythia, féeleth his mind so drowned in delight, that no griefe though neuer so great, is able to asswage it: so Gwydonius I conceiue such surpassing pleasure in thy presence, and such heauenly felicitie in the sight of thy perfection, that no miserie though neuer so monstrous, is able to amaze mée, no dolour though neuer so direfull, is able to daunt mée, nor no mishappe though neuer so perillous, is able to make me sinke in sorrow, as long as I enioy thy presence, which I count a souereine preseruatiue against all carefull calamities. That

as he which taſteth of the hearb Hyacinthus is never com-bred with care, and as he that weareth the ſtone Agathes about him, is ſurely defenced againſt all enſuing ſorrows: ſo enioying the ſight of thy ſeemely ſelfe, and feeding mine eyes with the forme of thy feature, I thinke my ſelfe ſuf-ficiently ſhrowded againſt all the tempeſtuous ſhowers of ſiniſter fortune. And to proue theſe my promiſes to bee no fained vanities but faithfull veritie, I commit my ſelfe, my ſtaie, and ſtate into thy handes, to diſpoſe of me at thy pleaſure, wiſhing rather to liue with thee in moſt diſtreſ-ſed penurie, than to linger heere in moſt fortunate proſpe-peritie.

Gwydonius liſtening attentiuely to this ſugred harmo-nie, was ſo raniſhed with the ſight of her ſweete face, and ſo rapt into a traunce with the contemplation of her beauty, that as the Lyon taſting of the gumme Arabicke becom-meth ſenſeleſſe, as the Bull by browſing on the barke of a Juniper tree falleth aſleepe, as the Camell ſtandeth aſton-iſhed at ỹ ſight of a Rat: ſo Gwydonius ſeeing in his armes the Saint whome in heart he did honour, and imbracing ỹ Goddeſſe whom with moſt deep deuotion he did adore, was ſo amazed, that he was not able to vtter one word, as wit-neſſe of his happineſſe, vntill at laſt gathering his wits to-gether, he began thus to reply:

CAſtania (quoth he) it is an axiome in Philoſophie, that the colour ioyned hard to the ſight, hinderth the ſenſe: the flower pot into the noſethrill, ſtoppeth the ſmelling: the Wine veſſell being full, letteth paſſe no Wine, though neuer ſo well vented: the waterpot being filled to the brim yeldes forth no licour, though hauing a thouſand holes: ſo where the minde is ſurcharged with ouermuch ioy, or too much pleaſure, there the tongue is both tyed, and the ſenſes ſo reſtrained, that the heart is neither able to con-ceiue the ioy, nor the tongue able to expreſſe the pleaſure.

Which

Which, Castania, I now speak by proale, and know by experience: for I am so drowned in delight by enioying that Princely Gemme, which I estéme the rarest and richest Iewell, not onely in Alexandria, but in all the world, and so puffed vp in pleasure by thy diuine presence: Yea, thy faithfull and vnfeined affection, the promise of thy constancy, and the hope of thy loyaltie, the report of thy chastitie, and the renowme of thy modestie, the loze of thy beautie, and the fame of thy vertue: But aboue all thy prodigall bounty, in bestowing these heauenly perfections on thy poze Gwydonius, being by person and parentage most vnworthy to possesse them, so surchargeth my fillie heart with excessiue ioie; that my tongue not being able in part to expresse the extreame pleasure of my minde, I am with Philistion the comicall Poet, constrayned by silence to vnfolde that affection, which in words the filed phrase of Demosthenes were not able to decipher. But this assure thy selfe Castania, that if Iuno would aduaunce me to hée Monarch of the world, if Pallas would preferre mée to excéde hautie Hercules in valour, if Venus would present me with some princely peece of heauenly perfection, yet would I not so gladly receiue their proffers, as I do gratefully accept the promise of thy loue and loyaltie. No: I account the treasure of Crœsus but trashe, in respect of the guerdon of thy good will: I account the fortune of Cæsar but follie, respecting the fruites of thy fauour: I estéme the dignities of Priamus as dregges, in respect of thy diuine perfection. Yea, Castania, I am so snared with thy beautie, and so intangled in the trappe of thy bountie, as I shall neuer leaue to loue thée, noz euer begin to like anie other.

IT is easie Gwydonius (quoth Castania) to purchase credite, where the partie is alreadie perswaded, and to infer beleefe, where euerie word is counted an Oracle. Therefore omitting these friuolous protestations, thus much I

saie

ſay touching the purpoſe. Cecillius Metellus was wont to ſay, that as it was neceſſary that old men ſhould be graue in counſaile, ſo it was expedient yong men ſhould be ſecret in loue: and therfore when the contract was made betweene Fuluius and his daughter, hée ſealed vp their lips with his ſignet, meaning that to violate the ſecret conference of louers, was to commit a ſecond ſacriledge. I ſpeak this Gwydonius, as one carefull of thy ſtate, and my ſtate: for if Orlanio my father ſhould but once heare of our loue, or ſuſpect our liking, it would breed thy miſhap and my miſerie: yea, no doubt hee woulde ſpéedily preuent our pretence, which would be thy care and my calamity. Diſpoſe our affaires at thy pleaſure, but diſcouer not our purpoſe: if thou haſt wonne the Caſtle, vaunt not of the conqueſt: if thou haſt made a good market, bragge not of thy gaines: leaſt by boaſting of thy bootie, thou loſe thy preie, & be thought a prattler. And Gwydonius, aboue all men beware of Valericus, leaſt vnder the ſhape of a friend, he proue in time thy mortall foe, leaſt his fained amitie proue faithleſſe enmitie: that in truſting too much without tryall, thou finde not treaſon: and then though thou repent, yet had I will commeth too late, and ſo thou wilt thou hadſt neuer loued, and I neuer liked.

TAlk Caſtania, (quoth Gwydonius) he that is afraide to venture on the Buck, becauſe he is tapiſht in the briers, ſhall neuer haue hunters happe, and hée that puttes his doubt in loue for euery chaunce, ſhall neuer haue louers lucke. Cannot the Catte catch Mice, without ſhee haue a bell hanging at her eare? Cannot the Hobbie ſeize on his preie, but hee muſt checke? Cannot the Spaniell retriue the Partridge, but hee muſt queſt? And cannot wée deale ſo warily but all the world muſt wonder as it? Yes, it is a ſubtile bird that brédes among the aerie of Hawkes, and a ſlitting ſhéepe that lambes in the Foxes denne, and he ſhall looke narrowly that ſpies me halting.

Let

Let Orlanio not onely weigh our worke, but our words, and let Valericus both deeme our deedes and diuine our thoughts, and yet we hope I will deale so secretly in our affaires, as neither the one shall haue cause to suspect our familiaritie, nor the other to detect our affection. And therfore Castania, least (if we be spied) the time and place giue occasion of mistrust, I will leaue you as I found you, and so farewell.

WEll, these two louers placed thus by Fortune in the palace of earthly prosperitie, floated so secretly in the streames of blisse, as they thought no chippes of mischance might change their present happinesse to future heauinesse, as long as their priuy contract was kept so secret to themselues. But as they which cannot see fire in the strawe are stone blinde: so hee that cannot see the flame of fancie is a sole. It is hard to couer smoake, but more hard to conceale loue: which these two louers in tract of time tried true. Who as closely as they kept their cloake, yet it was most easie to espie the lining: for fancie secretly restrained, is like the sparke couered with ashes, which at length bursteth into a great flame. For there passed betweene Gwydonius such amorous glaunces, such louing lookes, such courteous congies, such countenances, and such friendly familiaritie, such often meetings, such open greetings, such sighes, sobs, and such strange passions, as not onely Valericus, but all the Court (though they poore soules thought to daunce in a Net and not be seene) perceiued how entirely they loued and liked each other. Which as it did not displease many which loued Gwydonius as their friend, so it greatly despighted Valericus which was his foe, to see one of small countenance preferred before one of his calling, that Guydonius should win the bulwarke which he so long had battered: that hee pitching the fielde, another should obtaine the conquest: that hee laying the siege, another should vaunt of the victorie: that while hee

beate the bush, another should catch the birds, and that the meede of his merite, should be giuen to one of small desert. Being cumbred with these cholericke cogitations, and perplexed with these despightfull passions, inflamed with wrathfull furie, he fell into these tearmes:

O Gods (quoth he) what curtesie is there to be found in such kites of Cressids kinde? Or what constancie is there to bee hoped for in such daintie disdaining Dames? Whose wauering willes and faithlesse wittes both ware and wane with the Mone, whose lunatike minds change with euerie sodaine motion: yea, whose lightnesse and leaudnesse is such, as they delight with the Rauen to feede on the most loathsome flesh, with the shee Wolfe to chose the foulest Make, with Aesops Cocke to prefer the Barly Corne before a most precious Pearle, and with Glaucus to make a chaunge of his golden armour for brasen Harnesse.

Did not Euphinia forsake most famous Princes, and embrace a most infamous bondslaue? Did not Sirithia the Princesse of Denmarke reiect a poore peasant? Yea, did not Venus her selfe, with the Bëtle, disdaine all day to light on the most fragrant flowers, and at night vouchsafe to lodge in a filthie cowsheard: I meane, did shee not refuse the renowmed Gods, and chose a most deformed Smith?

Why, but Valericus, is it fancie that forceth them to follie? Doth loue leade them? Do the destinies driue them? Doth beautie allure them? Is it their countenance that constraineth them? No, they are clownes: Is it their person or parentage that perswadeth them? No, they are peasants. But like craftie Calipso, they thinke by these vnequall matches to rule the roast after their owne diet, to be soueraigne mistresses of their owne mindes, with Venus to let Vulcan possesse the trë, & Mars enioy the fruit, to haue their husbands sëd the shëp, and some other reape

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the fléece: vnder the shadowe of his head, to defend themselues from such heate as woulde otherwise greatly scorch their credite, to make him follow the bent of their bowe, although hée set the Cuckoe des end vpwarde. It is a simple cloake that cannot couer one from a shower of raine, and a silly husband that is not able to father that another doeth beget. But to sée how these gallant girles if they like not the partie, what shewe of shamefastnesse they will make, how they will vale their face with the visore of Virginitie, how they will cloke themselues with the colour of continency, how chary they will be of their chastitie: whereas if they fancy, who so lowe of their lips, and free of their flesh as they? But Valericus, why doest thou thus recklesly raile and rage against womankinde? It is not Castania that thus crosseth thée with care, but Gwydonius that hée deth thy griefe. Is it not shée that inferreth thy sore, but he that procureth thy sickenesse. She is not the meanes of thy maladie, but he the hinderer of thy medicine. Shee is not the worker of thy woe, but he is the sower of thy sorrowe. And shall hée bée pusted vp with prosperity, and I pressed downe with miserie? Shall he swim in wealth, and I sinke in want? Shall he bathe in blisse, & I waile in woe? Shall he be pampered vp with pleasure, and I pinde away with penury? No, I will eyther spoyle him, or spill my selfe, in despite of the fates and fortune.

VVhile thus Valericus sought opportunity to reuenge his wrath vpó guiltlesse Gwydonius, fortune minding to bewray her mutability, brought it so to passe, that wheras Orlanio was accustomed to pay a yerly tribute to the Duke of Mitylene, which surmounted to the sum of 30000. Duckets, eyther wilfully or wittingly hée withholde this debt, which Clerophontes claymed as his one, insomuch that being demanded by Embassage for the payment of this tribute, he flatly answered, that he would not from henceforth disburse one denger, and hee was

sorrie that in paying it heretofore hée proued himselfe such a foole. Whereupon Clerophontes being fraught with raging fury, was so incensed against Orlanio, that taking counsell of his Nobility, he determined with as much spéed as might be, to wage battaile against him, and to obtaine ẏ by cõstraint, which he denied him of curteste. As thus he was musing with himself whom he should appoint captain generall of his army, because he meant not in proper person to abide the hazard of the battell, the remembrance of his sonne Gwydonius came into his minde, which not only amazed him, but so molested him, as he was driuen into most distressed dolor: now he called to mind his mercilesse cruelty in correcting his faultes, and his moodlesse rigour in rebuking his folly: now he bewailed his long absence, and wished his spéedie presence: yea, hee was so diuersly perplexed, as hée began thus dolorously to discourse with himselfe:

ALas (quoth hee) now I sée the saying of Cicero to be true, that who so wilfully peruerteth the lawes of nature, séemeth to proclaime himselfe an enemy to the gods, for that Nature neuer framed any thing amisse, wherein I haue most gréeuously offended: for in beastly rage I haue surpassed the bruite beastes, and in crueltie, the senselesse creatures: I haue beene more deuoyd of pitie than the Fowles of the ayre, and more vnnatural than the Fishes of the sea. The Bird called Apis Indica, séeing the venimous Viper readie to deuoure her yong ones in the neast, presenteth her self to death, to preserue them from destruction. The Eagle is so carefull ouer her yong, that if it hap by her default one of them doo perish, she willingly woundeth her selfe in many places with her owne beake. The Lyon so louingly fostereth vp her whelpes, that shee neuer tasteth of the preie vntill they bee fully satisfied. The Fore is so carefull ouer her cubbes, that shee willingly falleth into the Hunters handes to defend her yong from harme.

But

But I vile wretch, as though I had dranke of the Riuer Lincelius in Bohemia, which presently torneth whatsoeuer it toucheth, into stones. In steade of friendly courtesie haue abused mine owne son with frowning crueltie, in lieu of mercy I haue brought him to misery: the fatherly affection I haue shewed him, hath bén raging furie: yea, my rigorous nature, nay rather my vnnaturall rage hath bœne such towardes him, as hee liueth a banished exile in a straunge Countrie, perhappes pinched with penurie, oppressed with powertie, wandering in the wilde desartes, in daunger of deuouring, in perill of spoyling, afflicted not onely with the maladie of the body, but the miserie of the minde: so that no doubt he wisheth that I had neuer bœne Father to such a sonne, or hée neuer sonne to such a Father.

Alas what ioy can I now inioy when I want mine onely ioy? What comfort can I haue to sée my childe in calamitie? What pleasure can I take while he toyleth in penurie, who now in mine age should be the staffe whereon to staie, that by his valiant courage and warlike prowesse (wherwith from his infancie hée hath bén indewed) might defend me from mine enimies, and reuenge me of my foes. But alas, I lament too late: the calme commeth out of time, when the Shippe hath suffered already Shipwrack, and the pittifull plantes little preuaile, where the Patient is already pushed into perill. No, no, my rage hath bœne too great to heare of his hasty returne, my peruerse furie hath bén such, as hée dare not abide my presence: and surely my sorrow is too great euer to be saued.

And with that Clerophontes start vppe, minding to reuenge these his cholericke cogitations by bloody battaile vpon the confines of Alexandria, and therfore in great hast mustered all his men, made great prouision for the warre, and caused his Nauie to be rigged, for that he meant to cõuey his army by sea into Alexandria.

Whyle thus there was no woorde through the whole

Dukedome of Mitylene, but warre, warre, and no newes but of the cruell conflict that should insue betwéene the two Dukes; certaine Merchantes of Alexandria, which then roade in the Hauen durst not goe a shoare to sell their commodities, but as fast as winde and weather would serue them, highed them out of the harbour, and coasted spédily into their owne Countrie: where they no sooner arrined, but they made report thereof to Orlanio, who driuen into a dumpe with this noysome newes, whether he doubted of the puissant power of Clerophontes, who was such a worthy warriour, and in battaile so bold, that no man durst abide him, or whether he feared his owne force was not able to resist the furie of his raging enemy; Hee presently summoned all his Lords to a Parliament, where after some conference, it was cõcluded that Thersandro should bee sent Embassadour to Mitylene to parle of peace with Clerophontes: which determination was no whit deferred, but with as much spéd as might be, the Barke wherein hée should passe was prouided, the charge of the Embassage was giuen him, and he accompanied with a traine of braue Gentlemen, departed.

But if this newes was dolefull to Orlanio, no doubt it was death it selfe to Gwydonius, who hearing that his father would bend his force against the place, wherein hee was, sawe all possibilitie taken away from obtayning his purpose, for he feared death if he were knowen to Orlanio, and hée doubted despightfull hate at the least, if he bewrayed himselfe to Castania. Which double dolour so distressed him, as hée felt himselfe diuerslie perplexed with dumpish passions, his mirth was turned to mourning, his pleasant conceits, to painefull cogitations: his wanton toyes, to waysling thoughtes: now he abandoned all good companie, and delighted onely in solitary life, the wildesome woodes were his walkes, and the secret shades the couert he chiefly coueted. In fine, hée séemed rather a Tymon of Athens, than a Gentleman of Alexandria, so that all the Court

mar-

marueiled at this so sodaine a chaunge, but especially Castania, who conjecturing his dolefull heart by his drouſie lokes, was astonished at this strange state, casting in her minde whether she had giuen him ante cause of this care, or whether by her occasion he was crossed with this calamitie. But alas poore soule, howsoeuer she aymed, she miſt the marke, for Gwydonius kept his diseale so secret, as he him self none could but himselfe diuine the cause of his maladie: which no doubt was such, that it would haue inferred present death, if hee had not hoped for some happie newes by Therſandro:

Who no ſoner luckely arriued at Mitylene, but Clerophōtes was certified that the Dukes ſonne of Alexandria was come to impart with his Grace, some waighthie matters of importance. Now at this instant when the meſſage was brought him, his daughter Lewcippa was by, who (as the nature of women is, deſirous to ſee and bee ſéene) thought she should both heare the parle, & view the perſon of this young Embaſſadour, and therefore found fish on her fingers, that she might ſtay ſtill in the chamber of preſence, whither presently Therſandro was sent for, who curteouſly and curtouſly doing his obeyſance to the Duke, deliuered his Embaſſage in this manner:

WHereas (right worthy ſir) Orlanio, the Duke of Alexandria, more vnwittingly then wilfully denied certaine tribute, which he confeſſeth both hee and his predeceſſours haue payd to you and your auncestors: Hearing that hereupon your Grace meaneth rather to wage battaile, then to loſe any part of your due, although he feareth not your force, as one able euery way to withſtand it, nor paſſeth of your puiſſance, as a Potentate ſufficient to reſiſt your power: Yet, the care he hath of his ſubiects ſafetie, and the loue he hath to preſerue the life of his Commons, the regard he hath to pay and performe ſ which conſcience and cuſtome requireth: and laſtly meaning with

Tully,

Tully, Iniquissimam pacem iustissimo bello anteponere. He hath sent me both to sue for conditions of peace, and to pate the tribute: which if your Grace shall refuse, of force he must put his hope in the hazard of Fortune.

THersandro having thus pithily performed his charge, Clerophontes tolde him that upon a sodaine he wold not dispatch so waighty a matter, but meant first both to consult and take counsaile of his Nobles: which done, within three dayes he shoulde haue an answere. In the meane time he commanded Lucianus the Steward of his house, verie courteously to entreate both Thersandro and his traine, and to feast them with such sumptuous fare, as they might haue cause most highly to extoll his magnificence.

But leaving Clerophontes, to consult with his learned counsailours, and Thersandro to accompanie with the lustie Courtiers, againe to Lewcippa, who while this young youth was telling of his tale, never markt the matter, but the man: nor regarded not the parle, but respected ỳ person: never noted the contentes, but viewed his countenance: In such sort, that she was so scorched with the fire of fancie, and so scalded with the flame of affection, so bewitched with his beautie, and so inueigled with his bountie, as he was the onely man that made her checke at the prap, bate at the lure, and willingly yeelde to the first assault of fancie. And on the other side, Fortune so fauoured, that Thersandro printing in his heart the perfection of Lewcippas person, felt his fredome so flattered by ỳ view of her heauenly face, and so snared in the beames of her amorous glaunces, that he wisht that either this dissention had neuer growen, or that he had not béene the deliuerer of the message: for hee felt his heart alreadie so ouergrowen with good will, towardes this young Princesse, as no salue but her selfe was able to mitigate his sorrow, no medicine but her curtesie was able to cure his calamitie,

tie, and he thought to preferre his ſute to his profeſſed foe, was folly: to linger ſtill in loue, was death and miſery: to ſéeke for helpe at her hands, neither would the preſent ſtate permit him, nor time ſuffer him to proſecute his purpoſe: daunted with theſe diuerſe doubtes, to auoyde the melancholike motions that moleſted his mind, he preſently went from his lodging to the Court, that by company hée might driue away theſe dumpes: where, hee founde in the great Chamber diuerſe Ladies & Gentlewomen, paſſing away the time in pleaſant parle, amongſt whom was that peerleſſe Paragon, princely Lewcippa: who (after due reuerence done to the Gentlewomen in generall) was ſingled out by Therſandro, and courted in this wiſe.

MAdam (quoth he) if any creature hath iuſt occaſion to accuſe eyther nature or the gods of iniuſtice, man only hath the greateſt cauſe to make this complaint: for there is none other ſo depriued of reaſon, or deuoyde of ſenſe, which by ſome naturall inſtinct doth not skilfully preſage of perils before they come, and warily preuent ere they bée paſt.

The Goates of Lybia, know certainly when the Canicular dayes beginne, wherein commonly they fall blinde, and therefore by eating the hearbe Polypodium, they prouidently preuent their diſeaſe. When the Lyon leaueth his Lawnes, and raungeth in forraigne deſartes, hée alwaies foreſheweth a drouth. When the Fiſh called Vranoſcopos ſinketh downe to the bottome of the Sea, hée bewrayeth great tempeſtes to bee imminent. But man is ſo farre from this ſecret foreſight, that not onely hee cannot diuine of theſe enſuing daungers, but rather wilfully or willingly, puſheth himſelfe into moſt manifeſt perils: which (Madame, I ſpeake, as ſéeling my ſelfe diſtreſſed with this want. For if I had béen indued with this ſacred preſcience, perfectly to preſage of inſuing perils, I had not béen croſſed with ſuch cares as I am like to incurre, nor had cauſe to re-

pent this my preſent arriuall. But ſith lacke of ſuch skill hath procured my loſſe, and that when the hurt is had it is to late to take héed, though reuealing of my miſhap cannot heale my miſery, nor repeating of my paines redreſſe my ſorrow, yet I mean to participate my paſſions to your good grace, that though you cannot or will not mitigate my maladie, yet you may pitie my eſtate, which will ſome what eaſe my heauineſſe. I came to your Fathers Court Madam, a free man of Alexandria, and am like to return a captiue of Mitylene: I arriued deuoyd of care, and am like to depart drenched with calamity: I landed frée from affectiõ, but fear to paſſe hence fraught with fancy: my charge was only to parle of peace, but my chance is to diſcourſe of paſſions. Yea, your beauty hath ſo fettered my freédom & ſo inared my heart in the linkes of your loue, that it ſhall neuer be raced out by any ſiniſter means of Fortune, although I ſée it is almoſt impoſſible to obtain it.

For I doubt, our Parents are like to proclaime themſelues profeſſed foes, and the vrgent neceſſitie of my affaires forceth mée to depart ſo ſpéedily, as want of time will not ſuffiſe to make triall of my loue, whereby I might claim a ſufficient guerdon for my good will: yet howſoeuer the matter ſhall hap, whether my hope bée voyde, or my hap be vaine, I meane Madame to remaine yours for euer.

Lewcippa took ſuch delight in hearing Therſandro diſcourſe ſo louingly, as ſhée could ſcarcely kéepe her countenance from bewraying the pleaſure ſhe conceiued in this parle, ſéeing that her loue was requited with liking, and hir fancie incountred with the like affection. Yet, leaſt Therſandro ſhould think her to courteous if ſhée ſhould come at the firſt call, and very light of loue, to like at the firſt looke, ſhée framed him this anſwere:

SIR (quoth ſhee) if of your ſute for Conditions of peace there inſue no better ſucceſſe than the reuealing of your

your passions shall reape pittie at my handes, or if the intreatie for truce be as lightly respected by my Father, as either your person or petition is regarded by me, you are like to carrie home colde newes to your countrey, and to vaunt that you had faire, but bought little, that your Harvest was long, but your corne not worth the cropping: that your venture was much, but your gaines such, as if your winning proue no better, you are like to line by the losse. For sir, do you suppose mee so sottish, as to thinke euerie one that flatters doeth fancie, or so addicted to selfe loue, as by a few filed phrases to be brought into a foles Paradise: knowing that it is the fashion of men by their fained subtiltie to deceiue our faithfull simplicitie? No, for if you meane to counterfaite, take this for a rule, it is ill halting before a crepple. But sir, this your sodaine liking bewraies the lightnesse of your loue: this your fond affection, importes the fickleneſſe of your fancie: for same hote, same colde: easilie inflamed, as quickly quenched: like to the Apples of Arabia, which beginne to rot, ere they be halfe ripe. And if I meant to loue, had I none to like but my Fathers foe? should I desire him whome my Father doth detest? And if I should so farre forget mine owne stay, or my Fathers state, as to consent, it were impossible either to appease his wrath, or to get the grant of his good will. So that to desire that which I can neuer inioy, were to driue my selfe wholly into despaire, which would smally profite you, and greatly displeasure me: and therefore cease to sue for that, which may well be wisht, but neuer obtained.

Therſandro although hee heard Lewcippa decide the case sufficiently, yet hee was so wilfull that hee would not take her dome for a verdite, but returned her this replie.

MAdame (quoth hee) where in lieu of hate there insueth loue, it is alwaies the signe of the grea-

ter affection: and that it is a thing either confirmed by the Fates, or appointed by the Gods. Tereus the Prince of Thrace, being sent by his father to defie Pandion the king of Athens, was enamoured of his daughter Progne, whereby betweene the Parentes in stéede of fatall enmitie, there insued friendly amitie. When as the bloudie warre betweene Atis the king of Libia, and Lycabas the Prince of Assur, was most hot, young Admetus, béeing sent Embassadour into Libia, was so stroken in loue with Alceste, onelie Daughter to his fathers foe, and shee repayed his liking with such loialtie, as death it selfe could neuer dissolue their amitie. If Madame, these premises may perswade you to take pittie of my passions, or these examples induce you, not to let the hatred of our parentes, bée a hinderance of our loue, whether your father reiect mee as a foe, or accept mée as a friend, I doubt not but the destinies will driue the bargaine through, in despight of them and fortune.

Sir (quoth shée) I confesse, Progne poore wench loued Tereus, but how wretchedly did hee reward her loyaltie? and Scilla was enamoured of Minos her Fathers foe, but howe tyrannously did hee repay her loue with treecherie? Tarpeia betraied the Tower of Rome to one of the Sabines whom she most entirely loued, but the méede of her merite was extreame miserie. Shall I then Thersandro sée the traine and yet fall into the trap? shall I spie the nettes, and yet strike at the stale? shall I sée the mishap, and yet wilfully incurre the mischance? no, I meane not for an inch of ioy, to reape an ell of annoy, for a mouēt of mirth, a month of miserie: for a dramme of pleasure, a whole pounde of paine, and by procuring mine owne delight, to purchase my fathers death and destruction. But let this suffice Thersandro to signifie howe I pittie thy passions, and thinke well of thy person, that if my Fachers will might bee framed to my wishe, if hee would condescend as I would consent, thou onely art the man who in the way of mar-

marriage should dispose of me at thy pleasure. But sith the frowning state of Fortune denies our loue to haue such happie successe, hope well, and rest vpon this point, that I will alwaies like thée as a friend, though not loue thée as my phére.

As Therſandro was ready to replie, and to seale vp the bargaine of their loue vpon her swéete lips, Clerophōtes came in, who marred all their market, and turned their swéet to sowre: for he gaue Therſandro his answere before Lewcippa, which was this, That he neither meant to accept of the conditions of peace, nor to receiue the tribute, but to claime his due by the doubtfull euent of battaile: That he shortly pretended in person, to visite Orlanio, and within the walles of Alexandria to demand his debt, and that he would bestow his fathers Dukedome vpon a Lord of his called Lucianus, in dowrie with his daughter Lewcippa.

Therſandro was nothing amazed with the first part of the message: but when he heard how Clerophontes meant presumptuously both to depraue him of his liuing, and depriue him of his loue, hee was so puffed vp with wrath and choler, as happe what happe would, he fell into these tearmes.

I remember (quoth he) that Caligula the Emperour, prouiding a mightie armie to subdue great Britaine, when hée was come to the sea, ready to passe ouer his souldiers in his Nauie, he left off his endlesse enterprise, and set them to gather Cockles. Siphax boldly boasting that hee would bestow the kingdome of Numidia vpon his second sonne, was by Maſſiniſſa ouerthrowne, and sold as captiue to the Romanes. I dare not sir inferre comparisons, because they be odious, nor apply the examples, sith time and place forbids mee: but this I say, that to fish before the net, is alwaies counted folly, and to vaunt before the victorie, is but

vanitie. Yea, and if I had as good right to your daughter Lewcippa, as I haue to the supposed dowrie which you assigne her, I would in despight of Lucianus and the diuell himselfe, dispose her at my pleasure.

Clerophontes hearing the cholerike conclusion of Thersandro, could scarcely bridle his frantike furie from raging without reason against this young youth: yet somewhat mitigating his mode, hee breathed out these cruell threatnings.

IF the law of armes (quoth he) did not both safely protect thée, and surely forbid me to hurt thée in that thou art a messenger, I would with such seueritie chastice these thy presumptuous speaches, as thou shouldest learne hereafter to answere with more reuerence: yet I wish thée not to stand to stiffe vpon this point, least if thou bee so reckelesse as to breake the bondes of reason, I be so forgetfull as to passe the limits of the law. Thou hast receiued a determinate answer for the Embasse, and heere I charge thée this present day to depart out of my dominions.

Thersandro fearing the tyrannie of this cruell Clerophontes, presently passed out of the chamber of Presence, taking his leaue of Ladie Lewcippa, onely with louing lookes, which she requited with such glaunces of good will, that they were sufficient signes what insupportable sorrow she receiued by his so sodaine departure: yet knowing that her fancie was incountered with mutuall affection, she draue away the mystie cloudes of despaire, hoping that the Gods seeing their faithfull amitie, would take pittie of their passions, and in time redresse their miserie.

But Thersandro hauing with spéede dispatcht his affaires (all his traine being set aboord, and they coasting the straights with a luckie gale) was so combered with care, and so ouergrowne with griefe, that he passed no houre, minute, nor moment, without woefull wailing, sorrowfull sobs, and far fetcht sighs: so that the Gentlemen his companions,

nions, ſuppoſing that hée was thus painfully perplexed for feare of Clerophontes puiſance, began both to comfort and incourage him, not to doubt or dreade the force of the enemie, ſith his father was able to repulſe him, without anie daunger to himſelfe, or anie great damage to his ſubiectes. But theſe their perſwaſions coulde no whit prevaile to aſſwage his paſſions, this their incouragement could not cure his care.

But as there is no greater bane to the bodie, than trouble of the minde: ſo Therſandro ſo long continued in theſe penſiue paſſions and carefull cogitations, concealing his griefe ſo covertly, which ſo much the more furiouſly flamed within him, that he was conſtrained to kéep his Cabbin till his arrival at Alexandria. Where being ſet on ſhore, and preſently conueied to the Court, he remained for the ſpace of thrée dayes ſo ſtrangely perplexed, as he was not able to make report of his meſſage: which ſo griped Orlanio with ſuch inſpeakeable griefe, as he wiſhed rather to haue died valiantly with the force of his enemy, than to put the death of his ſonne in hazard by paſſing ſo perillous a iorney. But Therſandro ſéeing that ſorrowe would not ſalue his ſore, but rather increaſe his ſickneſſe: that mourning woulde not appeaſe his maladie, but rather augment his miſery: began to take heart at graſſe, and within fewe daies began to recouer his former health. And then hee declared to his father what he had in charge from Clerophontes, how hée meant ſpéedily to wage war againſt him, & by force of armes to driue him out of his Dukedom, which he had alreadie promiſed to one Lucianus in dowry with his daughter.

Orlanio hearing this prounde preſumption of this bragging Duke, thought ẏ greateſt barkers were not allwaies the ſoreſt biters, and that it was far more eaſie with woordes to obtaine the victorie, than with déeds to attaine the conqueſt. Yet, leaſt he might be taken at vnawares, he made a generall muſter throughout all his Dominions, prouiding in euerie place neceſſary munition for the defence

of

of his Countrie. And assembling his Nobility to giue their verdit, who were fittest to be Captains in this skirmish; after some consultation had in this cause, they concluded, that since Clerophontes meant to joyn battaile in his own person, that likewise he should be Generall of the field, and Gwydonius who surpassed all the rest in martiall exploits, should be Lieutenant, and conduct the armie, which he no sooner heard but he was tormented with inspeakable griefe, he began to pull downe his Peacockes feathers, to hang his wings, and crie creake: euerie man hoping to win fame was merry, but he alone mourning: euery man laughed and he alone lowred: insomuch that he was generally suspected to be a fearefull coward, and that dread of danger draue him into these dolefull dumps. But as they rashly coniectured the cause of his sorrowe, so they mist the nature of his sickenesse: for Gwydonius seeing that of the cruel cõflict his calamity should insue, and that this bloody broyle would breed his bane, he fell into such solitary surmises, and such musing meditations, that Valericus his open friend, and yet his secret foe, sought by sundrie meanes to search out the cause of his care: but not beeing able to wring out any thing, either by flattering promises, or fained protestations, he ceased from his importunate suite. But froward fortune brought it so to passe, that Valericus comming by the chamber of Gwydonius, heard him thus desperately discoursing with himselfe.

Alasse (quoth he) I see the Sunne being at the highest declineth, the Sea being at the full tide ebbeth: calme continueth not long without a storme, neither is happinesse had long without heauinesse, blisse without bale, weale without woe, mirth without mourning. For who alate so floated in the flouds of felicitie as I, which now by the sinister meanes of frowning fortune am sowsed in the seas of sorrow, exalted alate to the highest degree of happines, am now driuen to the greatest extremitie of euill: alate

pulled

puffed vp with prosperity, and now pushed downe with aduersitie: yea, alate placed in Paradise, and now plunged in perplexity.

Oh Gwydonius, if thy Fathers friendly precepts might haue perswaded thee, if his aduice had béene thy aduertisement, and thou hadst carefully kept his counsaile, then by his fore-warning, thou hadst béene forearmed against all mishap and miserie. The force of fickle fancy had not then giuen thee the foyle, Loue had not so lightly procured thy losse, nor the painted shewe of beautie had not so soone procured thy bane. Thy bane? Why fond foole, beautie hath bred my blisse: fancie hath not giuen me the foile, but hath yéelded me the foyl: Loue hath not wrought my losse, but requited me with treble gaine.

Hath not Castania requited my loue with loyaltie, and repaied my good will with mutuall affection? Is shée not my Saint, and I her seruant? Are we not contracted together by loue, and shall continue together by law? May I not dispose of her in the way of marriage at my pleasure? Yes, but what then? The more is my griefe, and the greater my care. For if her presence procureth my delight, will not her absence bréed my despight? If her consent preserued my life, will not her contempt inferre my death? Yes. For alas, since the destinies meane to dissolue that fancie hath decréed, since the frowning fates séeke to vnlowe that which loue hath linked, since froward fortune meanes to breake the bonds wherein beautie hath bounde vs, since these blondie broples will cause Castania, (where before she accepted me for a friend) now to reiect me for a foe: What better lucke can I looke for than a loathsome life, or what better hap can I hope for than horror and beastinesse? Yes, which way so euer I turne mee I see nothing but woe and wretchednesse. For if Orlanio perceiued our liking, how would he storme at our loue? If he knew my chance, how would he fret at his Daughters choice? Would hée euer consent, that Castania should match with so meane a mate,

that her Princely personage should bee disgraced with my base parentage, that her calling should be crazed with my slender countenance: no, he would no doubt first banish me out of all his dominions. Tush Gwydonius, would God this were the worst, and then thou mightest hope in time, by some means to redresse this doubt. But if Orlanio should know thou wert heire apparant to the Dukedome of Mitylene, and only sonne to Clerophontes his fatall foe, what torment were there so terrible, which thou shouldest not trie? What paine so pinching, which thou shouldest not passe? What hap so hard, which thou shouldest not hazard? Yea, what death so direfull, which at his cruell hands thou shouldest not suffer? And what if Castania were privy to thy state, doest thou thinke her so constant as to consent to her Fathers foe? Doest thou thinke shee would wishe the sonnes weale, when the Father wisheth her mishap? No, assure thy selfe if thy state be once knowen, that Castania will most deadly detest thée, which will bee more grévous to thée than death it selfe, be it never so terrible. Sith then Gwydonius, thou must shortly either go in arms against thine owne Father, or else lose both thy loue and thy life, let not delay bréede daunger, but strike on the stith while the yron is hot. Castania hath promised to forsake both father, friends, and her owne Countrie, to passe where and whē it pleaseth thée, shee doubteth no daungers, she forceth of no misfortune, she careth for no calamity, she passeth for no perils, so she enioy thy desired companie: and therefore as spéedily as may be, conuey her closely into the confines of Mitylene, before either she know thy staie or thy state. And shall I so practice her with policies? Shall I so sifte her with subtilties? Shall I put so little trust in her troth, and so small confidence in her constancie, as to conceale frō her any secret? No, come woe, come wretchednesse, come death, come daunger, hap what hap will, I will presently impart vnto her my present state, and my pretended purpose.

Valericus

Valericus hearing this doubtfull discourse of Gwydonius, was driuen into an extasie for ioy, to see that hee had found such fit meanes, whereby hee might not onely purchase the Dukes fauour, aspire vnto honour and dignitie, but also obtaine the loue of Castania: for he meant speedily to preuent the pretence of Gwydonius, by vnfolding to the Duke the sum of his secret purpose, assuring himselfe, that after Orlanio knew his parents and parentage, that hee was sonne and heire to Clerophontes, no price though neuer so precious, no ransom though neuer so rich, might redeeme him from the most despitefull death that could be deuised. And of these premisses he inferr'd this conclusion, that if the cause be taken away, the effect faileth: that Gwydonius being reiected, hee should be receiued: that he being despighted with hate, hee should be requited with loue: and vpon this hope he went presently to bewray this matter to Orlanio, whome hee found with his sonne Thersandro, and diuerse other noble men consulting what course they had best take against Clerophontes, whome Valericus saluted in this wise.

PLato (right worthy Prince) that graue and wise Philosopher, whose sentences in all ages haue been holden as most diuine Oracles, portraieth out in his bookes of his Common wealth, the picture of a perfect Citizen: whose liniaments being first lineallied, he tricketh vp with these colours, that he loue his Prince loyallie, keepe the lawes carefully, and defend his Country valiantly, in which three pointes (saith he) consisteth the chiefest dutie of a trustie subiect: This saying of Plato throughly considered, and calling to minde the sundrie good turnes which without desert your Grace hath bestowed vppon mee, I thought if I shoulde not repaie your fauour with faithfulnesse, and your trust you repose in mee with inuiolable troth, I might bee counted a vicious vassall deuoide of all ver-

tues, a trecherous citizen, rather then a trusty subiect, a carelesse slaue, then a carefull gentleman: yea, a gracelesse mõster, misled wt ingratitude. I am come (right worchy sir) not to betray my so, but to bewray my frend, not to discouer ẏ fault of my enemy, but to disclose his offence which liuech with me in perfect amitie, in whose company hitherto hach beene all my loy, pleasure and delight: but since his pretence is greatly preiudiciall to your Graces person, I thought to prefer your profit before mine own pleasure, and the commoditie of my country, before mine owne priuate contentation. So it is, that Gwydonius, whom your Grace hach honoured, and all the Court esteemed, is sonne and heire to Clerophontes the Duke of Mitylene, who by the peeuish policie of his Father, vnder the pretence of seruice, is purposed to procure your fatall deach, and the finall destruction of your Dukedome. And the better to performe this diuellish practise, hee hath contracted himselfe to my Lady Castania, who blinded wich his beautie, and inueigled wich his wit, hath consented not onely to keep his counsaile to your confusion, but also closely to conuey her selfe wich him into his Countrie. Which pretence if your Grace doth not speedily preuent, you shall find that delay breedes danger, & that procrastination in perils is but the mother of mishap.

And haue I (quoch Orlanio) brought vp the bird that wil picke out mine owne eies? Haue I fostered vp the Serpent in my bosome that will breede my bane? Haue I giuen her life, that seekes to yeeld me death? Haue I cherisht her beeing young, and will she consume mee beeing older? Was there none to choose but Gwydonius, nor none to loue, but the sonne of her fathers foe? Will shee preferre her lust before my life? her priuate pleasure, before the safetie of my person? Well, as she forgets the duetie of a childe, so I wil forget the naturall affection of a father, and therefore Valericus goe speedily with these noble men to Gvvydonius chamber, and apprehend him, that I may requite his hatefull trecherie with most hellish torments. And Thersandro

see

sée you that Castania be closely kept vntill we haue caught the traitour, least shee vnderstanding that their deuise is disclosed, she saue her selfe by flight.

Valericus hauing this commission giuen him from the Duke, made no delay, but passed to Gvvidonius lodging with as much spéede as might be: but fortune who after euerie chip of mischance, sendeth some lot of good lucke, and after euerie storme of aduersitie, sendeth a quiet calme of prosperitie, so carefully prouided to frée Gwydonius from mishap, that he was newly gone towards Castania, to impart vnto her this his pretence: but before hee came to her chamber, he was encountered by Thersandro, who stearnly taking Gvvydonius by the bosome, pulling out his rapier commanded him as a traitour to stand, or else without any farther doome he should séele the dint of death.

Gvvydonius amazed with this sodaine motion, stode as one in a traunce, neither being able to defend himselfe with worde or weapon, but yéelded himselfe into the handes of Thersandro, who shakt him vp wich these bitter spéeches.

Thou traiterous wretch (quoch he) as it is impossible for the flame so closely to be couered, but it will be spied: so it is impossible, but chat treason, chough neuer so secret, should in tract of time be disclosed, which now by experience is verified in thee: for alchough chou hast hetherto falsely fained thy selfe to be a stranger of a forraigne nation, chou art now known to be sonne and heire to Clerophontes chat cruell tyrant my Fathers foe, by whose péeuish policie chou hadst not onely brought ẏ commõ wealch to confusion, but didst pretend to be preiudiciall to my Fathers person, if thy deadly practise and diuelish purpose had not by Valericus his meanes béen preuented. Hast chou béene so trained vp in treecherie, or is thy miude so spotted wich villanie, as to repay my fathers good will wͭ such barbarous ingratitude, & to deuise his destruction which simply foresought thy preferment? Yea, to counsell my sister

Caſtania, not onely to conſent to thy deſire, but to my fathers death? Is this the maner of Mitylene, or the cuſtome of thy country, to be ſuch cõſening counterfaites? Well, ſince I haue happily attached thee as a traitour, and as a villanous rebell, both tranſgreſſing humaine and diuine lawes, thou ſhalt abide the paine and puniſhment due to ſuch diuelliſh offenders. Now let thy cruell ſire Clerophontes, frée thee from thoſe torments which thou art like to ſuffer for thy trecherie, and let the Lordes of Mitylene deliuer thee from his handes, who meanes in moſt miſerable wiſe to martyr thee. Yea, let thy Concubine Caſtania, who is like for her graceleſſe diſobedience, to ſip of ẏ ſame ſorrow, ſée if her teares will now preuaile to moue Orlanio to pittie. No, if Iupiter himſelfe ſent Mercurie to mitigate his mode, neither the authoritie of the one, nor the eloquence of the other might preuaile to pacifie his furie.

GWydonius ſéeing that not onely his purpoſe was preuented, and his ſecrets diſcloſed, but that alſo Valerius moſt villanouſly had accuſed him and Caſtania of that which they neuer ſo much as once imagined, was ſo perplexed, and driuen into ſuch dumpes, as hee ſéemed by ſilence to auerre that which Therſandro had alleadged, yet at laſt he began thus to reply.

THerſandro (quoth he) as I meane not to affirme that which is falſe, ſo I will not deny that which is true: but come dolor, come death, come miſerie, come martyrdome, come torture, come torments, I will neither accuſe my ſelfe vniuſtly, nor excuſe my ſelfe by periurie. I confeſſe Therſandro, that I am ſonne and heire to the Duke of Mitylene, and contracted to thy ſiſter Caſtania, that Clerophontes, is my father by the law of nature, and Caſtania my wife by the league of loue: but that I either pretended or purpoſed to be preiudiciall to Orlanios perſon, or that Caſtania was counſailed or euer conſented to her fathers con-

confuſion, I not onely deny, but I will proue by combate that Valericus moſt villanouſly doth accuſe vs of ỹ whereof we are altogether lackleſſe.

VVhy Gwydonius, (quoth hée) wilt thou ſéeke to proue thy ſelfe loyall, when the hearers deeme thée a lyer? or to make a tryall of thy troth, when thy wordes can haue no truſt? Doeſt thou think my fathers fury will ſuffer thée to fable? Doeſt thou thinke his wrathfull rage will abide thy reaſons, or that he will be ſo patient as to hear thée plead thine owne cauſe? No, if thou wert as clér from theſe crimes alleadged againſt thée by Valericus as I am: yet in that thou art ſon to Clerophontes, the coine of Crœſus, and Kingdoms of Cæſar, were not ſufficient ranſome to redéem thée frō death. But Gwydonius, ſince thy health hangeth in my hands, and thy life or death is in my power, I will neither bee ſo bloody minded as to bréde thy bane, nor ſo cruell, as to be the cauſe of thy confuſion. The guerdon Gwydonius I crane of this my good will, and the recompence I claim for this curteſie, is that when thou commeſt to Mitylene, thou certifie thy ſiſter and my loue and Lady Lewcippa, that for her ſake I haue procured thy ſafety, that her perfection hath preſerued thée from perill, the loue I beare her hath ſaued thy life, the dutifull deuotion I owe vnto her, hath redéemed thée from death and daunger. And in token of this my vnfeined affection, I will lift my hand againſt none that commeth from Mitylene, but againſt Lucianus onely.

Before Therſandro was able fullie to vnfolde his mind, or that Gwydonius had time to yéelde him thankes for the ſafegard of his life, they heard a great noiſe, which made Gwydonius flie, and Therſandro hie him haſtily to Caſtanias lodging. Now the companie which came, was Orlanio himſelf, who certified by Valericus that Gwydonius could not be found, laid not only watch & ward throughout all his Dukedom to attache him, but went in proper perſon.

with

with his Gard to apprehend Caſtania, and lay her in cloſe priſon, whom he found all blubbered with teares, for that ſhe had vnderſtood the cauſe before of her brother Therſandro: Orlanio no ſoner ſpied her thus weeping, but hée rages againſt her in this wiſe.

HAth the force of loue, nay rather the furie of luſt (vile wretch) ſo blinded thine vnderſtanding, that to accompliſh it, thou paſſeſt not to peruert both humane and diuine lawes? Doth laſciuious affection and fleſhly fancy ſo furiouſly frie within thée, as thou wouldeſt procure thy fathers death to purchaſe thy diueliſh deſire? Could no rules of reaſon, no pricke of conſcience, no reſpect of honeſty, no feare of God, nor dread of man, prohibite thée from pretending ſuch a monſtrous miſchiefe, as to conclude with my mortall foe to worke my fatall confuſion? The yong Storkes ſo tender the olde ones in their age, as they will not ſuffer them ſo much as to flie to get their owne liuing. The bird called Apis Indica, being young, ſéeing ẏ olde ones through age growen ſo weake, as they are not able to waue their wings, carry them continually from place to place on their backs: theſe ſauage creatures haue but only ſenſe, and are obedient, thou haſt both reaſon and ſenſe, and art more vnnaturall: theſe brute beaſtes are moſt dutifull to their Parents, & thou a reaſonable creature art moſt diſobedient to thy father: yea, contrarie both to the lawes of nature and nurture, thou ſéekeſt to bathe thy handes in his guiltleſſe blood, & without care or conſcience, to commit moſt cruell murther: which is ſo hatefull to all things, as the ſenſeleſſe plants and ſtones moſt deadly deteſt ſuch villanie. The Oliue trée ſo hatefully abhorreth a Paraſite, that who ſo being guiltie of that crime, attempteth to plant it, doth not onely himſelfe preſently periſh, but the tree forthwith waneth and withereth. The ſtone Epiſtrites, ſo loatheth this offence, cõſting it a fact ſo repugnant to nature, that it wil not vouchſafe to be worne by a murtherer. And ſhall I then

let

lett thee liue, whome the ſenſeleſſe creatures doe ſo deadly leach? No, this hand which cheriſht thee béing a child, ſhal now chaſtiſe thee being ſuch a curſed caitife. And with that he drew out his Fauchon ready to haue ſlain her, but that Therſandro knéeling downe, deſired him that he would not ſo in his furie forget himſelfe, as without the ſentence of the law put her to death, but to commit her to ward, vntill the wars betwéene him and Clerophontes, were happily ended; and then vppon more ſtraight examination, if ſhe were found faultie, to aſſigne her a puniſhment due for ſuch an offence. Orlanio, ſomwhat pacified with his ſons perſwaſion, commanded that preſently ſhe ſhould bee carried to priſon, and the Ladie Melytta with her, as an actor in this Tragedie. And that with all ſpéede they ſhould poſt the countrie for the attaching of the traytor Gwydonius. Who after that he parted from Therſandro, ſéeing before his eyes the terrour of torments, and the hellish horrour of death, was driuen forward so with the dread of danger, and feare of imminēt perils, that knowing perfectly the coaſt of the Countrey, he paſſed ſo ſecretly and ſpédily, as hee was not ſo much as once deſcried by the Poſts that purſued him, but ſcaped ſafely out of the Dukedom of Alexandria. Being now without the dint of the Dukes danger, ſéeing that although he had eſcaped himſelfe, yet hee had left his loue and ladie Caſtania in hazard of her life, he began thus to exclaime againſt his owne folly.

AH Gvvidonius (quoth he) what follie haſt thou committed by this fearefull flight, what carefull calamitie is like to inſue of this thy cowardiſe? in auoyding Scilla thou art fallen into Charibdis, in preuenting one danger, thou art like to be plagued with a thouſand diſcommodities. Had it not béen better for thee to haue died in Alexandria, with honor, than to liue heere with ſhame & reproche, to haue ſuffered miſhappe with Caſtania, then to linger héere in miſerie? Doeſt thou thinke that ſhe wil euer count

of ſuch a prating Paraſite, as will loue her in proſperitie, and leaue her in aduerſitie, as preferreth his owne ſafetie before her ſecuritie, his life before her loue, and drawech himſelfe out of danger to leaue her in diſtreſſe? No, ſhe will contemne thee as a coward, more fit to be mate to ſome countrie ſlut, than a match for ſuch a courtly Princeſs, ſhe will thinke thy greateſt faith was but fained fickleneſſe, thy forged loue was but filthie luſt, thy promiſes were but periuries, and that thy greateſt amitie was but moſt diſſembled enmitie: ſo that of a profeſſed friend, ſhe will become thy profeſſed foe, her deſire will turne to deſpite, and her loue to moſt helliſh hate.

Why, alas, would my paine haue pleaſed her, would my martyrdome haue contented her minde, had my perill procured her profite, or my care her commoditie? Nay, rather would not my danger haue béene her death, my miſhap her miſery, my torture her torments, and my fatall deſtiny her finall deſtruction. By ſauing my life in time wee may enioy our loue, but by death no hope had béene left for obtaining our deſire: ſo that I aſſure my ſelfe, Caſtania will rather allow of my policie by preuenting perills by flight, than miſlike of my practiſe in procuring mine owne ſafetie. And vppon this point I reſt, hoping that the Gods ſéeing how vniuſtly Valericus hath accuſed vs, will in tract of time rid vs from blame, and reward him with ſhame.

Gwydonius was not more diſtreſſed with dolour, than poore Caſtania was combred with care, to ſée ſo ſtraunge a chaunce, and ſo ſodaine a change, that ſhe who of late was a royall Princeſſe, was now a ruthfull priſoner, that her fréedome was turned to fetters, her dignitie to miſerie, & her happie ſtate, to a moſt helliſh ſtate: that after flouds of teares which fell from her cryſtall eies, ſhe burſt forth into theſe tearmes.

Alas (quoth ſhée) what poore Damoſell was euer driuen into ſuch doubtfull diſtreſſe? What Princeſs was euer

euer perplered with ſuch doleſull paſſions? what maid was euer croſſed with ſuch miſhappe? nay, what creature euer was clogged with the like calamitie? Haue the ſpightfull Deſtinies decreed my deſtruction, or the peruerſe Planets conſpired my bitter bane? Doth froward fortune mean to make mee a mirror of her mutabilitie, or is this the reward that Cupid beſtowes vpon his Clyents? Is euery one that doth fancie, maimed with the like miſfortune, or is Loue alwaies accompanied with ſuch hapleſſe lucke? Alas no, for their loue is lawfull, and mine lewd and laſcivious: their fancie is fired vpon vertue, and mine vpon vanitie: they make their match with conſent of their Parents, and I my market without my Fathers counſaile: ſo that I am like in chooſing ſuch chaffer, to chop and change and liue by the loſſe: yea, to buy repentance at an vnreaſonable rate. Had it not bæn better for thée Callania, to haue condeſcended to ỹ requeſts of Valericus, than conſented to the ſuite of Gwydonius? to haue liked thine owne Countrey man, than loued a ſtraggling ſtranger: to haue ſatiſfied thy ſelfe with aſſurance, than vainely to fiſh for hope? Truth, but what then? Can the ſtrawe reſiſt the vertue of the pure Iet? Can th flaxe reſiſt the force of the fire? Can a louer withſtand the brunt of beautie? ſtraze, if hée ſtand by the flame? peruert the lawes of Nature, or eſchue that which is framed by the fates, or flie from the force of fancie? No, for who ſo eſcapeth the deadly dartes of Cupid ſhall be ſcorched with his fire, and ſhée that with the deiwe of chaſtitie quencheth his flame, ſhall be ouertaken with his winges: ſo that to ſéeke by flight to eſchue affection, is fooliſhly to enterpriſe that which can neuer be atchieued.

But alas, If I muſt néedes lend a liſtening eare to the allurements of loue, was there none to like but thy Fathers foe? How, fond foole, couldeſt thou ſhew him curteſie, that intendes to repay thee with crueltie? How couldeſt thou chooſe the ſonne to thy mate, when the Father ſéekes

thy misery. It is not possible to mixe the blood of a Bull and a Beare, togither in one vessell. The Lyons whelpes will neuer company with yong Wolues: the Faulcons called Pelagræ, will neuer flie with the young Leuerets: and if the Egges of a Crowe and a Turle we be put in one nest, they both forthwith burst in sunder, because there is such ancient enmitie betwéen the olde ones. And wilt thou then be so wilfull to loue him whom thy father doth loath, or so peruerse as to place thy selfe in that parentage, where there is such mortall hatred betwéen the Parents? Wilt thou so farre forget the dutie of a childe, as more to respecte thy fatall enemy, than regard thy naturall Father? But why vile wretche doe I thus fondly fable? though Clerophontes be my Fathers foe, yet Gwydonius is my faithfull friend: though the one séeke to procure my paine, the other séekes to purchase my pleasure: though the olde Sire striues to subuert my Fathers state, yet the sonne neuer sought to bee preiudiciall to his person, although that periured Parasite Valericus hath most vniustly accused him of trecherie. Shall I then hate him who hath alwaies honored me? Shall I worke his woe that wisheth my weale? Shall I be his bane, who hath bred my blisse? Shall I detest him which serueth me with most déepe deuotion? No, I héere heartily powre out most pittifull playntes to the gods to preserue my Gwydonius from perill, and that fortune may so fauor him as hé may passe out of Alexandria, without death or danger. What though I héere in prison pine in payne? What though I sinke in sorrow? What though I be distressed with griefe? oppressed with misery? What though I be crossed with care, and cumbered with calamity? Tush, let my father fret and fume in his furie, let my brother rage and raple, let that traitor Valericus triumph, and all the Countrie most bitterly curse mee, yea, let them martyr mee most miserably, let them torment mee most terribly, yet direfull death shall not feare mé, as long as I know Gwydonius is deuoyde of danger.

For

For I hope though Fortune frowne, though the destinies deny it, though the fates forsweare it, yea, though the gods themselues say no, yet in time wee shall haue such happie successe, as the loyaltie of our loue, and the cleernesse of our conscience by the lawe of iustice do deserue. And therefore Gwydonius shall be the Planet whereby to direct my doings, hee shall be the starre shall guide my compasse, he shal be the hauen to harbour in, and the Saint at whose shrine I meane to offer my deuotion.

Castania hauing thus discoursed with her selfe, she determined when the wars were ended, if shee could haue no hope to enioy the loue of Gwydonius, to confesse her faults and to sue for mercy at the barre of her fathers curtesie: not that she meant to liue without Gwydonius, or to loue or like any other, but to prolong her daies in dolour, that shee might most rigorously reuenge ỳ villany of Valericus, & by bathing in his blood she might both satisfie her selfe, and signifie to Gwydonius how entirely she loued and liked him. But leauing her perplexed with these passions, againe to Clerophontes.

Who frying still in his frantike fury, was not anie whit perswaded to conclude peace with Orlanio, but hauing mustered his men, as spedily as might bee, imbarkt them, and with a lucky gale arriued at the coast of Alexandria, where the borderers not able to abide his forces, were constrayned to saue themselues by flight. But he as a man hauing exiled from his heart both pitie and pitie, bathed his hands in guiltlesse blood, firing euery fort, battering downe euery bulwarke, sacking each Citie, racing downe the wals to ỳ ground, and commanding his souldiors vpon pain of most grieuous punishment not to haue any respect of persons, neither to regard the hoarie haires of the aged Cittizens, nor the tender yeres of the sucking infants, but to imbrue their blades with ỳ blood of all men, of what degree soeuer.

Orlanio hearing how Clerophontes had inuaded his

dominions, and with what barbarous cruelty he had murthered his subiects, having also intellegence by his scowts, that his army was passing huge, the better to resist the furious force of his enemy, hired out of other Countries a great multitude of mercenary Souldiours, so that he gathered a marvellous great hoast, wherein was an infinite number indued with great skill and long experience.

Furnished thus sufficiently both with men and munition; like a wise and warie Captaine, séeing that hée no wise else might resist the puissant power of so mightie a Prince, determined without further delay to méet him and give him present battaile, having marvellous assurance in the approoued manhoode and vertue of his souldiours.

Clerophontes likewise béeing of such a valiant and inuincible courage, as hée séemed from his infancy to be vowed to Mars and martiall affaires, manfully marched forward to méete with his enemies: which he performed so spédily, that within few daies, both the armies were within view: which Clerophontes séeing, hée began to incourage his souldiours on this sort.

Although most trusty Subiectes (quoth hée) I neither doubt of your prowesse, nor haue cause to feare your manhood, as hauing mine army fraught with the most courragious Captaines, and boldest bloods of Mitylene, yet I wish you to consider how desperately we haue aduentured vpon the conquest of this Dukedome, which if we atchiene, we shall not onely gaine perpetuall fame and renowme, but reap such riches & treasure, as shal sufficiently countervaile our trauaile. But to obtaine this victory wée must behaue our selues valiantly, neyther dreading any danger though neuer so desperate, nor doubting any perill though neuer so fearefull. Before our face we haue our enemis, behinde our backes the surging seas; so that fight we

we muſt, but flie wée cannot: in being courageous wee winne the field and returne conquerours: in proouing cowards, wee both loſe our liues and the conqueſt: if wee foile our foes, wee returne with triumph: if we faint and flie, we haue no hope of ſafetie, but death and deſperation is imminent. Be then hardy to hazard, and valiant to venture amidſt the preaſe of your enemies, that daunted with your valour, they may be forced to flie, & wee both triumph and enioy the treaſure.

CLerophontes hauing thus louingly incouraged his ſouldiers, Orlanio on the other ſide ſeeing his men began to feare the force of the enemie, and were amazed to ſuch a monſtrous multitude, pricket them forwarde with this parle.

THat mightie Monarch Alexander the great, who for his martiall exploites was a mirrour to all his poſteritie, whoſe proweſſe was ſuch, as he daſted Darius, and by his inuincible courage made a conqueſt of the whole worlde: hearing on a time one of his Captaines to demaund what multitude was in their enemies campe, anſwered, that it was not the point of a good ſouldier, to inquire how many the enemies were, but where they were: meaning that to feare the multitude is rather the ſigne of cowardize, than a token of courage. Which ſaying I wish you carefully to conſider, that the huge armie of Clerophontes neither amaze your minds, nor abate your valeur, ſith that the equitie of our cauſe doth more than counteruaile his companie. He inuadeth our realme without reaſon, & wee defend but our owne right: he cruelly ſeeketh to depriue vs of freedome, & we lawfully do maintain our owne libertie. He tyrannically ſtriueth to make vs bondſlaues, and we fight to free our ſelues from captiuitie. If he preuaile let vs looke for no pitty, but if we ſhalbe murthered without mercy, we ſhall ſée before our face our wiues raviſhed, our daughters deflowred,

our

our parents put to death, our children slain, our goods spoiled, our Citie sacked, and our selues brought to viter ruthe and ruine. Sith then we are placed betwéen two extremities, either to possesse our own with plenty, or to passe our lines in penurie: let vs valiantly venture whatsoeuer wée gaine, let vs fight without feare: for better it is to die with honour, than to liue with shame.

By that time Orlanio had ended his Oration, the armies met in a plaine, within thirtie leagues of Alexandria. Where both of them ordering (as became good Captains) their people, there began in the breake of the daie the most cruell and terrible battaile that earst was heard of, considering the number on both parts, their experience and policie, with the valiant prowesse and courage of the captains. Thus continued they in fight, euen almost vntill Euen, with marueilous slaughter on both sides, the victorie yet doubtfull, till in the end the Alexandrians began to faint and flie, more oppressed with the excesse of the multitude, than distressed for want of manhood: for there were two and fortie thousand slaine, but not one taken prisoner, and of Clerophontes company eight and twenty thousand slaine, and fiue hundered mortallie wounded. This monstrous massacre, and fearefull slaughter, so amazed the minds of these two Captaines, that for the better burying of ỳ dead, and healing of them which were hurt, they concluded a truce betwéene them for fiftéene daies, in which time Orlanio sent Ambassadours to parle of peace with Clerophontes, but in vaine: for hee was resolued either valiantly to die in the field with glorie, or to inioy the Dukedome of Alexandria with renowme. Yet as a worthy Prince preferring the securitie of his souldiers before the safetie of his owne person, he offered them the combat, which Orlanio to auoyd the effusion of blood, most willingly accepted. Notwit was agréed and concluded betwéene them, that two champions might be chosen, who by the dint of the

sword

sword should stint the strife betweene these two armies. If he of Mitylene remained victor, then Orlanio should not onely pay his former tribute, but deliuer vp his Dukedome into the hands of Clerophontes. But if the Alexandrians obtained the conquest, the Duke of Mitylene should peaceably depart the Countrie, release the tribute, and also resigne his state, and become a subiect to Orlanio. And for the better keeping and confirming of these conditions, they presently dispatcht Embassadors to Fernandus ye king of Bohemia, to intreat his Maiestie that he would vouchsafe to become iudge in the combat: who for that hee wished well to both these Dukes, graunted to their requests, and with as much speed as might be, came to Alexandria. But in the meane time there was some difference about the champions: for Clerophontes said, that sith in losing ye field consisted the losse of liuing, life, and libertie, and in getting the victorie the gaine of a Dukedome, he would in proper person fight the combat, and trie the chaunce of Fortune, and therefore made a challenge to Orlanio. But hee finding himselfe sacre vnfit to resist his furious force, refused it. Yet promising, that none vnlesse he were descended of Nobilitie, should enter the lists, wherewith Clerophontes was very well contented. Now while this truce continued, which was prolonged for thirtie dales, it was lawfull for them of Alexandria to come and view the campe of Mitylene, and for the Mitylenes to goe and see the Cittie. Whereupon, Clerophontes desirous to see Orlanio & his Court, went onely accompanied with his guard to Alexandria, where he was most royally entertained, and sumptuously feasted by Orlanio, both of them remitting the rigour of their malice, till it should be shewed in effect, by reason of their manhood. But as soone as Thersandro and the other Lordes sawe Clerophontes, that he was rather a monster than a man, hauing each limme so strongly couched, each part so proportioned, so huge of stature, & so fierce of countenance, they were so daunted with the sight of his

 person,

perſon, as they almoſt feared to come in his preſence, ſaying: that thoſe of the boldeſt bloudes in Alexandria were not able to abide the face of Clerophontes. Who now peaceablie departing to his hoaſt, left Odanio as greatly perplexed for aſſembling his nobilitie together, amongſt whom he appointed the champion ſhould be choſen. They not onely with one conſent withſtood his commaund, but began to murmure and mutine againſt him, condemning him of follie that he would ſo vnaduiſedly commit his owne ſtate and their ſtate to the doubtfull hazarde of one mans hap. Odanio ſeing that it was now no time to chaſtiſe this their preſumption, vnleſſe hee meant to raiſe ciuill diſſenſion in the cittie, which were the next way to confirme the enemie, and hyde his owne confuſion, he diſſembled his choler, and began to worke a newe way. For firſt he freed Caſtania out of priſon, then made generall proclamation throughout his Dukedome, that what Lord ſo euer within his land would trie the combat with Clerophontes, if he remained victor in the conqueſt, hee would not onely giue him his daughter Caſtania to wife, let him poſſeſſe peaceably the Dukedome of Mitylene as her dowrie, but be content to acknowledge him as his liege, & pay him tribute, as he was wont to Clerophontes.

While he lingred and liſtned how this proclamation would preuaile, Caſtania hearing this ſeuere ſentence, and dolefull doome pronounced, ſeing that ſhe ſhould not onely be forced to forſake Gwydonius, but be conſtrained to match in mariage with one whom ſhe ſhould neither loue nor like, burſt forth into theſe bitter complaints.

ALaſſe (quoth ſhe) how pineching a paine is it to be perplexed with diuerſe paſſions, what a noyſome care it is to be cumbred with ſundrie cogitations, what a woe it is to hang betweene deſire and deſpaire, and what a hell it is to houer betweene feare and hope? For as to him which is aſſured to die, death is no dolour, in that he perfectly knowes

there

there is no salue can cure his sorow, so to him which leares to die, and yet he pes to liue, death were chiefe more welcome then to linger in such doubt. In which confused case alas my care consisteth: for as out of the riuer Ceam in Sicilia burstes the most fearefull flames, and yet the streame is passing colde, neither is the water able to quench the fire, nor the fire coole the water to be hot, so the heat of loues flame doth out of the chilling fountaine of feare, and yet the force of the one is not able to asswage the vehemency of the other, but still my heauy heart is diuerslie assayled with them both.

If my father Orlanio won the conquest, I doubt my desire shall neuer haue happy successe: if Clerophontes triumph as victor, I greatly feare his cruelty is such, as I shall not escape most hapelesse death. And yet again, I hope that then my owne Gwydonius will accept me for his, and with triumphant armes embrace me. But alas, will Clerophontes suffer him to match with his mortall foe, will he not rather preuent it by my perill? Yes no doubt: if he returne with triumph my father shall serue him as a subiect, my brother shall become his vassall, my friendes shall bee forelorne, my Citie sackt, and my native Countrie brought to vtter confusion. And shall I for the loue of a Stranger with these straunge Stratagems? Shall I to serue mine owne fancy, and content my lusting minde, wishe my Fathers death, my Brothers bane, my Friends mishap, my Countries confusion, and perhappes my owne miserie? For though Gwydonius loued mee when our Parents were friendes, he will not now like me being foes: but to reuenge the iniuries my Father offered him, will subtilly seeke to sacke mine honour and honestie, and so triumph of my shame and discredite. Had I not better pray my Father may winne the combate, and then shall I bathe in the streames of blisse, and flowe in the floods of felicitie, then shall I dread no daunger, no feare, no perills: then shall I see my father, friends, and Country, flourish in most happie prosperitie: then shall I enioy some iollie Gentleman,

who will loue mée being young, and cherish me being olde, and possesse the Dukedome of Mitylene for my dowrie. And canst thou Castania be so ingratefull, as to will his woe which wisheth thy weale? to desire his destruction which prayeth for thy prosperity? Canst thou be so couetous as to craue that for thy possession, which is thy Gwydonius patrimonie? or so suspicious, as to accuse him of trechery, which hath bin but too trusty: to count him a counterfaite, which hath alwaies béene constant? No, come what come will, let froward Fortune fauour whom shée please, so I maie ioy and safely enioy my only ioy Gwydonius.

As Castania had thus ended her complainte, Gwydonius who all this while lurked about the borders of Alexandria, heard what successe Orlanios affaires had with his Father Clerophontes, how verie fewe or none at all durst trie the combat with him, that his loue and Lady Castania was the prise that hée should get that gained the conquest. Which things considered, supposing that Castania had cast him off, and that she plaid, Out of sight, out of mind, by a secret and trusty messenger, hee presented her with this Letter.

Gwydonius to Castania,
health.

THe pure spice, Castania, the more it is pounded, the swéeter smell it yéelds: the Camomill increaseth most béeing troden on: the Palme tree the greater waight it beareth, the straighter it groweth: the stone Terpistretes, the more it is beaten, the harder it is, and loyall loue is not weakened by the stormes of aduersitie, but rather farre the more fortified by the frowarde state of frowning Fortune: which Madame I speake by proofe and experience,

ence: for since I haue supped off the sowre dregs of sorrow, and beene pestered with the bitter pills of penury, since sinister fortune hath crossed me to the mishaps, and disaster fates haue driuen mee downe to misery, my fancy hath so furiously assaulted my minde, and affection hath so incessantly battered the bulwarke of my brest, as the sparkes of loue which kindled in mee in prosperity, are turned to fierce and fiery flames by aduersitie. So that Madam, your presence did not before procure me such pleasure, as your absence doth paine, neither was I so drowned in delight, in frequenting your companie, as I am drenched with despight, by leading my life in sorrowfull calamitie. Alasse Castania, what vnspeakeable griefe hath tormented mee? what direfull dolour hath distressed mee? what hellish harrour hath haunted mee? yea, what woe and wretchednesse hath wracked my wits, since thou hast been proclaimed a prey to him whosoeuer winneth the prise in the combate? How oft haue I wished that I might bee the Champion to make the challenge, that I might venture my life to purchase thy liberty, that my death might redeem thee from danger?

But alas, I see to wish is in vaine: to craue of ẏ geds, that thy father should vaunt of ẏ victory, is but to wish that our loue should haue haplesse successe: to pray that Clerophontes should returne with conquest, thou wilt deeme I desire thy friends misfortune. Thus assayled with diuers doubts, I driue off my dayes in dolour: hoping howsoeuer fortune frowne, that the fates wil assigne vs a perfect calm of permanent felicity for this sturdie storme of pinching miserie.

Thine, euer exiled
Gwydonius.

CAstania hauing receiued this Letter, seeing that no sinister chaunce of fortune was able to change the fixed fancie of Gwydonius, conceiued such assured hope in his constancie, as now shée thought his troth was filed with no spot of treachery, that his faith was quite deuoide of flatterie, & that whatsoeuer chaunced, she might safely repose hir stay and state in his loyaltie. Insomuch that to driue out the euill opinion which she thought her brother Therlandro had conceiued of Gwydonius conspiracie, she secretly shewed him the Letter: which after he had read ouer, and carefully construed euery clause, hee began both to detect and detest the villanie of Valericus, desiring his sister Castania that shee would earnestly perswade Gwydonius in disguised apparel spéedily to repaire to her lodging, promising with solemne vowes and sacred oathes, not to be preiudiciall to his person: Castania affying greatly in her brothers faith, and desirous to haue a sight of her louing Gwydonius, returned him these few lines.

Castania, to Gwydonius, prosperity.

WHoso taketh Gwydonius of the hearb Mely Sophilos is neuer tormented with the sting of aduersitie, and shée that weareth the stone Mephites about her, neuer sorroweth at sinister fortune, who so fancieth without fainting neuer proueth fickle, and she that loueth loyally may well be crossed with calamitie, but neuer iustly accused of inconstancy. Account thy Castania good Gwydonius to be in ỳ same predicament: for let disaster mishap driue me down to most deadly miserie, let the cruell fates compasse me with cursed care, let fortune and the destinies conclude my confusion, yet it shall not diminish my fancie, but rather increase my affection. I will still in weale, in woe, in bale, in blisse, in mirth & misery, say I loue, and it is

onely

onely Gvvidonius. For shall our fancie be such as it shall be foiled with misfortune: no, but as Thetis changing into many shapes, at last returned into her owne forme, so into what mishap I be driuen by miserie, yet I will stand in mine old state in despight of the fates and fortune. Come therefore Gwydonius to the Court in disguised apparell, but without care: for thou shalt finde me so trustie, as my troth shalbe without spot, and thy health without hazard. Thus wishing thy curteste to conster well of my constancie, I bid thee fare well.

Thine, or not her owne,
constant Castania.

GWydonius hauing carefully construed ouer the contents of this louing Letter, although the rigor of Orlanio might haue giuen him sufficient cause of suspicion, yet the clearenesse of his owne conscience, and the loue he bare to Castania, would not suffer him either to suspect any treason, or to doubt of any deceit, but determined without any delay to put the safetie of his person and the safegard of his life into her handes. But leaning him to bring his purpose luckily to passe, againe to Orlanio.

Who seeing that his proclamation could not preuaile, and that his Nobles preferred their owne safetie before his securitie, was perplexed with such hellish passions, & gripped with such pinching griefe, as the Ghostes tormented with grisly fiends, felt no such hapelesse furie. To fight with Clerophōtes, hee felt his strength farre vnfit to resist his force: to denie the combat, he neither could nor would, although he brought himselfe to confusion, & his children to captiuitie: so ỹ howsoeuer he turned himself, he saw before his face death and despaire, woe and wretchednesse, mishap and miserie. Combred thus with this cureleste care, and sitting solitarily in sorrow, seeing the dismall day driue on, and hearing that Fernandus ỹ king of Bohemia was lately landed

landed, he fell into more furious passions, vntill he was driuen out of his dumpes by his sonne Thersandro: who perceiuing his father thus dolefully daunted, he beganne most louingly to comfort him, promising that since none durst venture to deale with Clerophontes, hee himselfe would fight the combat, and either worthily win the conquest with renowme, or manfully die in the fielde with honour.

Orlanio hearing the bold courage of this neme champion, felt his sorrow somewhat salued by this proffer, perswading himselfe that his sonne was better able to abide the brunt chan he, and hoping that the Gods would fauour the equitie of the cause, and assuredly by iustice graunt him the victorie. Resting I say, vpon this hope, and thanking Thersandro for his naturall affection, and praysing him for his noble courage, he presently went to meete Fernandus, whom he most princely entertained, conducting him very royally into Alexandria, where he most sumptuously feasted him and all his traine. But as they passed away the time in pastime and pleasure, so more Thersandro spent the day in dolour, and the night in sorrowe. For alchough to comfort his father hee made light of the combat, and valiantly offered himselfe to trie the chaunce of fortune, yet seeing his enemies force far to exceed his feeble strength, hee began to faint, alchough like a worthy Gentleman he couered his dreadfull courage with a desperate countenance, raunging vp and downe the fields to driue away his melancholie: where by chance in disguised apparell he met Gvvidonius, to whom after some parle past betweene them, he bewraied the whole state of the matter, how he was to enter combat with Clerophontes, and that he doubted greatly of the euent of the victorie, fearing the force of his Father, and fainting at his owne imbecillitie. Which Gwydonius hearing, hee made this short answere.

Thersandro

Therſandro (quoth hée) it is vaine with long talke to paſſe away the time when delay breeds danger, and folly to hope for faire weather when the Aire is ouercaſt with cloudes: leauing off therefore all oathes to confirme my faith, thus much to the purpoſe. If it pleaſe thee to truſt me without triall, and to giue any confidence to my words, I héere promiſe both to make manifeſt my loyall loue to Caſtania, and to repaie thy courteſie; that I will, reſembling thy perſon, and diſguiſed in thy armour, enter combat with my father Clerophontes, eyther intending by winning the victorie to obtaine my will, or by loſing the conqueſt to want my wiſh: if this my praier pleaſe thée, I will paſſe priuily to the Court: if not, good Therſandro, let me go as I came.

Therſandro, commending the ſubtill deuiſe of Gwydonius, carried him as couertly as coulde be to Caſtania, to whom hée was farre more welcome, than ſome rome, remayning cloſely in her cloſet til the next morning. Caſtania notwithſtanding knowing nothing of their pretence, Fernandus king of Bohemia, the next day being gone with al his Nobility to the place appointed for the combat; Orlanio, Caſtania, and all the Lords of Alexandria, clad in mourning attire followed him, thinking this diſmall date ſhould bée the date of their deſtruction. And Clerophontes as a balefull wretch thirſting after blood, and glorying in the hope of his ſuppoſed conqueſt, ſtode in the liſtes, expecting his fatall foe. To whome Gwydonius his ſonne furniſhed with the armour of Therſandro, preſented himſelfe. Who ſéeing, that forced by the fond allurements of Loue, he was to fight, not with his mortall foe, but with his naturall father, he fell into theſe doubtfull dumps:

Alas poore Gwydonius (quoth he) how art thou combred with diuerſe cogitations? what a cruell conflict doeſt thou finde in thy minde betwéene loue and loyaltie, nature and neceſſity? who euer was ſo wilfull, as willingly to wage

battaile againſt his owne father? who ſo cruell as to enter combat with his owne ſire? Alas, dutie perſwades mee not to practice ſo monſtrous a miſchiefe: but the devotion I owe Caſtania, driues mee to performe the deede, were it thrice more dangerous or deſperate. The honour I owe to my father, makes mee faint for feare, but once to imagine ſo brutiſh a fact: the loue I owe to Caſtania, conſtrayneth me to defend the combat, if Iupiter himſelfe made the challenge. And is not (fond fole) neceſſitie aboue nature? is not the lawe of loue aboue King or Keyſar, Father or Friends, God or the diuell? Yes. And ſo I meane to take it: for either I will valiantly winne the conqueſt and my Caſtania, or loſe the victory, and ſo by death end my miſeries.

With that the Trumpets ſound, and Gwydonius luſtily leaping into the liſts, fell preſently into furious fight with his Father, driuing not onely Fernandus and Orlanio but alſo both the armies into a great doubt. For although Clerophontes moſt cruelly proſecuted him, yet he alwaies receiued the ſtrokes, but neuer ſo much as once returned one blow: til at laſt looking aloft, eſpying Caſtania, his courage increaſed, that all feare ſet aſide, he carelefly flang away his ſword and ſhield, and ran vpon his Father, not only tearing from him his Target, but, violently caſting him vpon the ground and ſpeedily vnlacing his helmet, offered to cut off his head with his owne ſword: but Clerophontes crying out confeſſed himſelfe captiue, and graunted his enemy the conqueſt. Wherupon they of Alexandria, gaue a mighty ſhout, and Fernandus and Orlanio came downe ready to carrie Clerophontes captiue to the Citie. But Gwydonius firſt demaunded of Orlanio if he was content to performe that which he promiſed by proclamation: to whō Fernandus anſwered, that both hee would and ſhould, or elſe as he was his friend, ſo he would be his foe. Gwydonius hearing this faithfull aſſertion of the King, pulling downe his beauer began to ſpeak in this manner.

I Let thee Orlanio (quoth hée) and the worthy king of Bohemia to know, that I am Gwydonius, sonne and heire to this conquered Clerophontes, who for the loue of thy Daughter Castania, haue not spared contrary to the law of nature, to fight with mine owne Father; hoping the destinies by my meanes haue decréed not onely of fatall foes to make you faithfull friends, but to finish vp your loue, which otherwise could not haue bén performed.

I haue wonne Orlanio my Fathers Dukedome by victory, and thy daughter by conquest: the one I had before by inheritance, and the other by loue, yet I would willingly haue thy good will, which if thou grant, I hope my father wil both pardon my offence, and think well of my proffer.

Clerophontes killing and embracing Gwydonius, told him his care was half cured, in that such a good captain had wonne the conquest. Fernandus and Orlanio stode astonished at this strange Tragedy, doubting whether they dreamt of such a rare deuise, or saw it in effect. At last Orlanio, as one wakened out of a trance, with trickling teares imbraced Clerophontes, honoring him as his soueraigne, and promising not onely to giue Castania to Gwydonius, but also halfe his Dukedome in dowrie. Clerophontes thanking him for his curtesie, consented most willingly to this motion: so that before Fernandus departed, the marriage betwéen Gwydonius and Castania, Thersandro and Lewcippa was most sumptuously solemnized.

FINIS.

The Debate betweene Follie and Loue, tranſlated out of French by ROBERT GREEN, *Maiſter of Artes.*

The ARGVMENT.

Ivpiter made a great Feaſt, at the which all the gods were commanded to be preſent. Loue and Folly arriue at one inſtant at the gate of the palace, which was ſhut hauing nothing open but the wicket. Folly ſeeing Loue readie to enter in, paſſeth before: which repulſe driueth Loue into choler. Folly auoucheth that of right ſhe ought to be the foremoſt. Whereupon they enter into diſputation of their power, dignity and ſuperioritie. But Loue not able to get the conqueſt by words, taketh his bowe in hand and ſhooteth at hir; but in vaine: for Folly became inuiſible, and in deſpight pulleth out *Cupids* eyes. And for to couer this deformity, ſhadoweth his face with a vaile, ſo framed by the Deſtinies, that is was not poſſible to take it away. *Venus* complayneth of Folly vnto *Iupiter*, who appointeth *Apollo* & *Mercury* to pleade the caſe of theſe two Clients: whoſe diſcourſe being heard, hee pronounceth his ſentence.

FOLLIE.

I feare greatly that I ſhal be the laſt at ỹ feaſt of Iupiter, where all the gods (no doubt) do attend me. And yet me thinke I ſee the ſonne of Venus which is as late as I. I will paſſe before him, leaſt they call me ſluggiſh and ſlothfull.

Loue.

VVhat foole, is this that repulleth mee so rudely? Take heede least haste make waste, and that thy rashnesse cause thee not to cry Peccaui.

Folly.

Oh sir, blame me not though I make haste: for I go before, to tell the gods that you come at leisure.

Loue.

Nay, that which is easily begun, is not alwaies lightly ended: for before you escape me, I will reuenge this thy iniurious telling.

Follie.

Let mee goe fond Loue, and staie mée not: for as it is a shame to quarrell with a woman, so it is more discredit to take the foile.

Loue.

The foile? What boasting brags be these? Who hath euer aduentured to despise me, much lesse to defie me? But doest thou know what I am?

Folly.

Thou art Cupid, the Sonne of Venus.

Loue.

How darest thou then vaunt thy selfe against mée? which how little so euer I bee, am the most redoubted of all the gods.

Folly.

Thy words are great whatsoeuer thy works be: but tell me, what or wherein listh this thy great power?

Loue.

The heauens and the earth (fond fole) are witnesses of my words, there is no place where I haue not left Trophées in signe of triumph. Looke into heauen, and demand if anie of the gods haue escaped my hands. Begin with olde Saturne, Iupiter, Mars, Apollo, and end with the demi-gods, Satyres, Faunes, and Syluans: Nay, the goddesses

deſſes themſelues will not ſhame to confeſſe ſomewhat. Looke vpon the earth, and ſée if thou canſt finde one which hath not béene ſubiect by my meanes. Behold in the furious Seas, how Neptune & his Tritons doe yéeld me obeiſance. Yea, and laſtly looke into Hell it ſelfe, if I haue not forced Pluto that infernall Prince, to ſteale away Proſerpina the daughter of Ceres. And to th'end thou doubt not with what engines I haue atchieued theſe victories, behold this bowe and theſe arrowes only, which haue wonne me theſe worthie conqueſts. I haue no néede that Vulcan do temper my tooles. I am not accompanied with the Furies & Harpies, to cauſe me to bée feared before the combat. I haue not to do with Chariots, Souldiours, Captaines, men of armes, nor great troupes of Horſmen, without the which mortall men cannot triumph. No, I haue no other counſaile, munition, nor aide, but my ſelfe. When I ſée mine enemies in the fielde, I preſent my ſelfe with my bowe, and let flie my bolles, and the victorie is alwaies gotten at the firſt ſtroke.

Folly.

I excuſe thy youthfull yéeres poore Cupide, or elſe I woulde blaze thée for the moſt preſumptuous patch in the world. It ſéemeth by thy vaine vaunting, that euery one holdeth his life of thy mercy, and that thou art the onely Lord and Soueraign both in Heauen, Earth, the Sea, and Hell. But many things are ſpoken which are neuer beléeued.

Loue.

And art thou ſo hard of beléefe, to deny that which euery one confeſſeth?

Folly.

I haue not to do with other mens opinions: but this I am ſure: that it is not by thy force and prowelle, that ſo many miracles are wrought in the world, but by my induſtry, by my meanes, and by my diligence, although thou knoweſt me not. But if thou doeſt cõtinue long in this thy choler,

choler, I will let thée vnderst nd, that thy bowe and thy arrowes wherof thou vauntest so much, are more weak than war, if I bend not the one and temper the other.

Loue.

Doest thou thinke by this skoffing to pacifie mine anger, or by contemptuous threatning to qualifie my choler? Hast thou euer (fond fool) handled my bowe, or directed my bolts? Is it thy prowesse and not my force which performeth such valiant conquests? But since thou regardest me, and respectest my force so little, thou shalt presently feel the proofe thereof.

Folly maketh her selfe inuisible, so that Loue cannot hit her.

Loue.

But where art thou become? How hast thou escaped mee? This onely is the strangest case that euer chaunced vnto me. I had thought that amongst all the gods I only could haue made my selfe inuisible. But now I sée I am deceiued.

Folly.

Did not I tell thee before, that thy bowe & thy arrows are of no force, but when it pleaseth me, and that by my means thou alwaies obtainest the conquest? Maruaile not if I be inuisible: for if I list the eyes of the Eagle or of the Serpent Epidaurus, cannot espie me; for Chameleon like, take the shape of them which whom I do remaine.

Loue.

Trulie as I coniecture, thou art some Sorceresse, or some Enchauntresse, some Circe, some Medea, or some Fairie.

Folly.

Wel, since, thou doest thus reclesly rail vpon me, know that I am a godesse as thou art a god: my name is Follie,

I am she which raiseth thee vp, and casteth thee downe at my pleasure. Thou vnlosest thy bowe, & lettest flie thine arrowes in the aire: but I place them where it pleaseth me. Thou doest addresse thy selfe against Iupiter: but he is of farre puissance, that if I both guided not thy hand, & tempered thy arrow, thy feeble force could little preuaile against his prowesse. Indeed thou diddest force Iupiter to loue, but I caused him to change himselfe into a Swan, into a Bull, into Gold, into an Eagle. Who caused Mars & thy mother Venus to be taken in bed together by the limping cuckold Vulcan, but I? If Paris had done no other thing but loued Helena, Sparta had neuer reioyced, nor Troy been brought to ruine. What did not I cause him to goe to Menelaus, vnder colour of Embassage, to Court vnto his wife, to leade her away by force, and after to defend his vniust quarrell against all Greece? Who had spoken of the loue of Dido, if he had not deuised to goe a hunting, that she might haue the better opportunity to communicate with Aeneas, that by such priuate familiaritie he might not be ashamed to take from her that which long before most willingly she would haue giuen him. I beleeue no mention had beene made of Artemisia, if I had not caused her drinke the cynders of her husbads dead carkasse: for els who had knowne whether she had loued her husbande more than other women? The effect and issues of things alwaies makes them to be praised or dispraised. If thou makest men to loue, yet I am oft times the chiefest cause. But if any straunge aduenture or great effect chanceth, in that thou hast no part, but the onely honour belongeth vnto me. Thou rulest nothing but the heart, the rest I gouerne: yea, I leade thee, I conduct thee, & thine eies serue thee to no more vse than the beames of the Sunne to a blinde man. But to the ende thou know me from hencefoorth, and that thou maiest giue me thankes for conducting thee carefully, behold now how greatly thine eies do profit thee.

Follie putteth out Cupids eyes.

Loue.

Alas Iupiter, O my mother Venus, what auaileth it to be thy sonne so feared, so redoubted, both in heauen and in earth, if I be subiect to be iniured as the most vile slaue in the worlde? Alasse, haue I thus lost mine eyes by an vnknowne woman?

Follie.

Take heede fond sole another time to raile vpon those, who perhaps are of more force and puissaunce than thou. Thou hast offended the Queen of men, thou hast outraged her, who gouerneth the heart, the braine, and the minde; vnder whose shadow euery one once in his life throwdeth himselfe, and there remaineth either long or short time according to his merite: thou hast displeased her who procureth thy renowme, thou hast contemned her who hath aduanced thee, and therefore hath this misfortune fallen vpon thy head.

Loue.

Alas how is it possible for me to honour her whome I neuer knew, or to reuerence that person whome before I neuer sawe: but if thou hast borne mee such great good will as thou saiest, pardon this my offence, and restore me my sight.

Follie.

To restore thee thine eyes is not in my power: but I will couer the place, to hide the deformitie.

Follie couereth Cupids face with a Scarfe, and giueth him winges.

And in lieu of this hapleste locke, thou shalt haue theis wings which shall carrie thee whither thou wilt wish.

Loue

Loue.

But where hadſt thou this vaile ſo readie to couer my deformitie?

Follie.

It was giuen me as I came hither by one of the Deſtinies: who tolde me it was of that nature, that if it were once faſtned, it could neuer be vnlo'ed.

Loue.

How vnlo'ed? Am I then blinde for euer? O vile and traiterous wretch, could it not ſuffice to put out mine eies, but to take away the meanes that the gods cannot reſtore them? Now I ſée the ſentence verified on my ſelfe, that it is not good to take a preſent at the hand of an enemy. O cruell deſtinies, O curſed daie! ſhall not the heauens, the earth, and the ſeas haue cauſe to waile, ſith Loue is blinde? But why doe I complaine here in vaine? it is better for me to ſue to the Gods for reuengement.

The ſecond Diſcourſe.

Loue goeth from the palace of Iupiter, lamenting to himſelfe his miſchiefe.

Loue.

Alas in what miſerable caſe am I? what can either my bowe or mine arrowes auaile me? now can I not cauſe who I liſt to loue, but without reſpect of perſons, euerie one is in daunger of my dartes. Hitherto I haue onely cauſed daintie damſels, and pong youths to loue, I did chooſe out the braueſt bloods, and the faireſt and moſt well featured men: I did pardon vile and baſe perſons, I excuſed the deformed creatures, and let olde age remaine in peace. But now, thinking to hit a young gallant, I light vpon ſome olde doating lecher: in ſtead of ſome braue Gentleman, I ſtrike ſome filthie lurden. And it ſhall happen (I doubt) that they ſhalbe moſt fortunate in their loue; ſo ý by

patrimony, presence, or wealth, they shall soonest winne the fauour of women, and by this meanes my kingdome shall come to ruine, when men lie in it such disorder and euill gouernment.

Venus hauing long sought Cupid, now meeteth him.

I Haue carefully long sought thée my déere sonne, marnelling what the cause should bee that thou hast not béene present at the banket of Iupiter: Who is greatly incensed against thée, not only for thy absence, but for the cõplaints which are powred out against thée by sundrie poore artificers, laboring men, peasants, slaues, hand-maids, old men, and toothlesse aged women, crying all vnto Iupiter, that they loue; thinking themselues greatly iniured in this respect, that the passion which is proper to worthy and Noble men, should be inflicted vpon them which are of the base and vilest sort.

Loue.

Had not the great misfortune which is chaunced vnto me happened, I had neither bén absent from the banquet, nor their grieuous complaints had not béene inferred against me.

Venus.

Why? And art thou hurt? Who hath thus vailed thine eyes?

Loue.

Folly hath not onely pulled them out, but also hath put this band before mine eyes, which can neuer be taken away.

Venus.

O cursed enemy of all wisedome, O hapelesse wretch, vniustly called a goddesse, and more vnrightly tearmed immortal, hast thou depriued me of my chiefest delight and felicity? O disaster loue, O dissolute mother, O wofull

Venus

Venus, who late thy ioune, thy ioy, and only care, thus cruelly deprived of thy sight? Well, since thy misshappe is so great, I vowe that every one that shall loue (what fauour or happy successe soeuer he shall haue) shall not be without some care, trouble, or calamitie, that he haunt not himselfe to be more happie than the sonne of Venus.

Loue.

Cease off good mother from these sorrowfull complaints, and redouble not my griefe by these dolorous discourses, suffer mee to beare mine owne misfortune, and wish not euill vnto them which shall be my subiects.

Venus.

Well, let vs then go to Iupiter, and complaine of this cursed inchantresse.

The third Discourse.

Venus.

If euer thou haddest pittie of my plaintes, most iust Iupiter, when thou sawest me labour to saue my sonne Aeneas from the furie of the raging seas, and to defend him from other dangers, in the which he was present at the siege of Troy: If my teares for the death of my deare Adonis moued thee to compassion: The surpassing sorrow that I doe conceiue for the great iniurie offered to Cupid, I hope shall mouue thée to pittie. If teares would suffer me, I would bewray the cause of my sorrow: but behold my son in what plight he is, and thou shalt easily perceiue the cause of my complaint.

Iupiter.

Alasse my deere daughter, what doe these teares pretende? knowest thou not what fatherly affection I haue alwaies borne thee? what doest thou distrust that I will not succour thee, or that I cannot?

Venus.

No, I neither doubt the one, nor distrust the other, only

vengeaunce lacke against Follie, the most outragious Furie in the worlde, which hath thus grieuously abused Cupid.

Folly.

Most mightie and soueraigne Iupiter, behold I am here ready to answere to Venus complaints, and to debate my right against Cupid.

Iupiter.

Folly, I will neither accuse nor excuse thée, vntill I haue heard the defence of the one, as well as the plaint of the other, least I should be thought partiall: neither, for the more auoiding of iniustice in the matter, will I suffer you to pleade your owne causes, but Venus chuse you one of the Gods, and Folly take you another.

Venus.

I chuse Apollo to defend my cause.

Follie.

And I Mercurie, to maintaine my right.

Iupiter.

Then Apollo & Mercurie prepare your selues to plead well in your clientes cases: and Apollo since you take the plaintifes part, let vs heare what you can say.

Apollo.

The common people, right soueraign Iupiter, although their minds be sotted, and almost senselesse, yet they haue alway had one in such sacred estimation, that they haue carefully rewarded them with the titles of honor and dignitie, which haue excelled in that holy affection, estéeming this onely vertue (if so rightly it may bee tearmed) sufficient, of a man to make one a God. The Scythians for this cause canonized Pilades and Orestes, erecting temples vnto them, and calling them the Gods of amitie. Castor and Pollux were made immortall by this meanes, not in that they were brothers, but in that (which is rare) their

loue

loue was inuiolable. How hath fame blazed abroad ye loue of Dauid and Ionathan, the amitie of Pythias and Damon, and of Titus and Gisippus? But the better to make manifest the force of loue and amitie, I will alledge the saying of Darius, who opening a Pomgranate, being demanded whereof hee would haue as manie as there were graines within, answered, of Zopyres: this Zopyrus was his faithful friend, by the meanes of whom he conquered Babylon. I remember also a certaine Syrian demaunding a mayd in mariage, & being willed to shewe of what wealth hee was, said that he had no other riches, but two friendes; esteeming himselfe rich inough with such possessions to craue the daughter of a great Lord in marriage. Did not loue cause Ariadne saue Theseus life, Hypermenestra redéeme Linceus frō danger, and Medea frée Iason from perill? Haue not many poore soldiers bēn aduanced to high dignities by the meanes of loue? Yea, doth not all pleasure and profit proceed to man by loue, causing him to looke with an amiable countenance, to speake pleasantly, and to bee curious in his gestures, although by nature he be dull, sottish, and of a fierce looke? What causeth a man to go braue and fine in his apparell, seeking euerie day new fashions, but loue? What procureth Gentlewomen to haue their haire frizled, crisped, & embroidred with gold, to be dressed after the Spanish, French, or Italian fashion, but Loue? painting their faces, if they be foule, with lively colours. But if they be faire, they so carefully kéepe their beautie from the parching heate of summer, from the chilling cold of Winter, from the winde, rayne, and aire, as they remaine almost euer young, not so much as forgetting to haue their shoes made fine and neate (because the curiousnesse of men is such, as they leaue not to looke from the crowne of the head to the sole of the foote) to haue their gemmies, iewels, ouches, rings, perfumed gloues, & what not? In fine, what beautie or braueric is in the apparell, either of man or woman, all proceedeth of Loue. Shall I say that Apelles was

onely

onely inuented by loue, yea truly: for either it mitigateth the passions wherewith men are perplexed, or else augmenteth their pleasure, so that daily they inuent diuerse kindes of instruments, as Lutes, Citrons, Viols, Flutes, Cornets, Bandoras, whereon they play Madrigalls, Sonnets, Pauins, Measures, Galliardes, and all these in remembrance of Loue, as he for whom men doe more than for any other. What causeth men to iust, tourney, runne at tilt, and what, but Loue? Who caused Comedies, Shewes Tragedies and Maskes to be inuented, but Loue? Whereof commeth it that men delight to rehearse their amorous chaunces and straunge passions, and to relate them to their companions: some praising the curtesie of his Lady, another condemning his mistresse cruelty: yea, recounting a thousand mishappes which happen in their Loues: as Letters disclosed, craftie reports, suspicions iealousie, sometimes the husband comming home sooner than either the louer would, or the wife doeth wish: sometimes coniecturing without cause, and otherwhiles beleeuing nothing, but trusting vpon his wines honesty. To be short, the greatest pleasure after Loue, is to tell what perilous dangers are passed. But what maketh so many Poets in the world, is it not Loue? The which seemeth to bee the plaine songe whereon all Poets doe descant: yea, there are fewe which write vppon any serious matter, but they close vp their worke with some amorous clause, or else they are the worse accepted. Ouid hath celebrated the fame of Cupid, Petrarke and Virgill, Homer and Liuius, Sappho, yea, what seuere Socrates wrote somewhat of his loue Aspasia. Tush, who rightly can denie, that Loue is not the cause of all the glory, honor, profit, and pleasure which happeneth to man, and that without it hee cannot conueniently liue, but shall run into a thousand enormities?

All this happy successe came by Loue, so longe as hee had his eies: but now being depriued of his sight, and accompanied with Folly, it is to be feared, nay certainly to be beleeued

beléeued, that he shall be the cause of as many discommodities, mischiefes and mishaps, as hetherto he hath bén of honour, profite, and pleasure. The noblemen which loued their inferiours, and the subiectes which duetifully serued their Lordes, shall be marueilously changed by the meanes of Follie: for the maister shall loue his seruant onely for his seruice, and the seruant his maister onely for commoditie. Yea, there is none so addicted vnto vertue, but if once he loue, he shall presently commit some foolish touch: and the more straight and firme Loue is, the greater disorder there shall be by the meanes of Folly. There will returne into the world more than one Biblis, more than one Semyramis, than one Myrrha, than one Canace, than one Phædra. There shall be no place in the world vnspotted. The high walles and trellised windowes shall not kéepe the Nunnes and Vestall Virgins in safegard. Olde age shall turne her aged affections into fond fancies and wanton desires. Shame shall liue as an exile. There shall be no difference betwéene the noble and peasant, betwéene the Infidell and the Poore, the Turke and the Iewe: the Lady, the Mistresse, and the handmayd. But there shall insue such a confused inequalitie, that the faire shall not be matched with the well featured, but shall bee oft times ioyned with foule and deformed persons. Great Ladies and noble Dames shall fall in loue with them whome before they would disdaine to accept as their seruants. And when the loiall and faithfull louers haue long languished in the loue of some beautifull Dame, whole makall good will they haue gained by desert: then Follie will cause some fickle and false flatterer to reioy that in one houre, which in all their life they could not attaine. I passe ouer the continuall debates and quarrels that shall insue by Follie, whereof shall spring woundes, massacres, & most fearefull murthers. And I greatly feare that whereas Loue hath inuented so many laudable seruices, and brought forth so many commodities, that now he will bring great inconuenie, ac-

companied

companied with ignorance, that he will cause young Gentlemen to leaue feates of armes, to forsake the seruice of their Prince, to reiect honorable studies, and to applie thēselues to vain songs and sonnets, to chambering and wantonnesse, to banquetting and gluttony, bringing infinite diseases to their bodies, and sundry dangers and perils to their persons: for there is no more dangerous company than of Folly.

Behold O soueraigne Iupiter, the mischieses and miseries that are like to insue, if Folly be appointed companion to Loue. Wherfore I, in the person of all the gods, beseech your Maiestie to graunt that Loue may not bee ioined with her, and that Folly may grieuously be punished for the outrage she hath done to Cupid.

As soone as Apollo had ended his Oration, Mercurie in the defence of Folly began to speake in this wise.

Mercurie.

VVHeras (right worthy Iupiter) Apollo hath with his painted eloquence set out the praises of loue, and hath sought with his filed phrases to discredit Folly, I hope when your Maiesty shall throughly heare the cause decided, you wil commend his eloquence more than his reasons. For it is not vnknowen vnto you and all the gods, that Folly is no whit inferior vnto Loue, and that loue should be of no force without her, neither coulde his Kingdome indure without her helpe, ayde, and counsaile. I pray you cal to remembrance how Folly incōtinently after man was placed in Paradise, began most imperiously to rule, and hath euer since continued in such credite, as neuer any goddesse had the like; raigning and ruling amongest men, from time to time, from age to age, as the only princesse of the world: Insomuch that who haue been

more

more honoured than soules? Who was more subiect vnto follie than Alexander the great: which seeking himselfe to suffer hunger and thirst, to be subiect to sorrowe and sicknesse, not able to keepe himselfe from drunkennesse, yet would be honoured for a God.

What kinde of people hath béene in greater credit than Philosophers, and who more soules? Did not Aristotle most foolishly die for sorrow, because he knew not the ebbing and flowing of the sea? Did not Crates in casting his treasure into the Sea, commit a wise déede? What follie shewed Empedocles, by his strange conceaures? What say you to Diogenes tunne, and to Aristippus flatterie? Whoso throughly considereth their opinions, shall finde them subiect to the state of follie. How manie other sciences are there in the worlde, which are altogether foolish: and yet the professours of them had in high reputation amongest men. They which are Calculators of Natiuities, makers of Characters, casters of figures, are they not fryers of this fraternitie. Is it not follie to be so curious, as to measure the heauen, the height of the starres, the breadth of the earth, and the depth of the sea: and yet ỳ professors héere of are highly estéemed, and onely by the means of follie. Nay, how could the world continue, if the dangers, troubles, calamities, and discommodities of marriage were not couered by folly? Who would haue coasted the seas if follie had not bin his guide? To commit himselfe to the mercy of the winde and the waues, to liue in danger of fearefull surges, and perilous rockes, to traffique with sauage and barbarous people, onely incensed by the meanes of Follie. And yet notwithstanding, by this meanes the Common-wealth is maintayned, knowledge and learning augmented, the properties of hearbes, stones, Birdes, and beastes, perfectly searched out. What follie is it most daungerously to passe into the bowels of the earth to digge for pron, and séeke for gold? How many artes and occupations should bee driuen out of the

woulde if Follie were banished? Truly the moſt part of men ſhould either beg for want, or die for hunger? How ſhould ſo many Aduocates, Procurators, Sergeants, Atturneis, Scriueners, Imbroderers, Painters, and Perfumers liue, if Ladie Follie were vtterly exiled? Hath not follie inuented a thouſād deuices to draw a man from idleneſſe, as Tragedies, Comedies Dancing ſchooles, fencing houſes, wraſtling places, & a thouſand other ſelfe ſports?

Hath ſhe not made men hardie and venturous to fight with Lions, Bores, and Buls, onely to gaine honour and to paſſe other in follie? What did Antonie and Cleopatra when they ſtraue who ſhould ſpend moſt in beaſtly banqueting? What cauſed Cæſar lament that he had not begun to trouble the world in that age, wherein Alexander had conquered the greateſt part? Why did diuerſe ſeeke to fill vp the valleyes, to make plaine the mountaines, to dry vp Riuers, to make Bridges ouer the Sea, as Claudius the Emperour did? What made Rodope builde the Pyramides, and Artemiſia frame the ſumptuous ſepulchre, but Follie. In fine, without this Goddeſſe, man ſhoulde bee carefull, beaſie, and wholie drowned in ſorrow: whereas Follie quickeneth his ſpirits, maketh him ſing, daunce, leape, and frame himſelfe altogether to pleaſure. It is not poſſible that loue ſhould bee without the daughter of youth, which is Follie. For Loue ſpringeth of ſodaine and ſundrie cauſes, by receiuing an apple, as Cidippe: by looking out at a windowe, as Scilla: by reading in a Booke, as the Ladie Francis Rimhi: ſome fall in loue by ſight, ſome by hearing, but all liuing in hope to obtaine their deſires. And yet ſome haue loued without anie naturall cauſe, as Pigmalion, who fell in loue with his Parble picture: and I pray you what Sympathie could there be betweene a liuely youth and a dead ſtone? what was it then but follie that kindled this flame? What forced Narciſſus to fall in loue with his owne ſhaddowe, but Follie? Yea, what aduenture is paſſed in loue without Follie?

For

For the Philosophers define Follie to be a depriuation of wisedome, and wisedome is altogether without passions: of the which when loue shall be voide, then no doubt, the Sea shall be without waues, and the fire without heate.

Consider but a young man which onely placeth his delight in amorous conceites, decking, dressing, and perfuming himselfe most delicately, who passeth out of his lodging fraught with a thousand sundrie fancies, accompanied with men and Pages, passing to the place where hee may haue a sight of his Mistresse, obtaining for his trauell no gaine but perhaps some amorous glance, making long sutes, spending his time and his treasure, consuming his wit, and wasting his wealth, and yet reaping nothing but disdaine and discredite. But if it chance that his Mistresse condescend vnto his requests, she appointeth him to come at some suspicious houre, which he cannot performe without great perill. To come with company, were to bewraie his secrets: to go alone, most daungerous: to goe openly, to manifest: so that he must passe disguised, sometime like a woman, other times like a peasant or some vile person, scaling the walles with ladders, climbing vp to the windowes by cordes: yea, continually in daunger of death, if Follie did not hold him vp by the hand. It is not also vnknowne vnto you how many sundrie passions do perplexe the poore passionate Louers, all which proceed of Follie: as to haue ones heart separated from himselfe, to be now in peace and then in warre, now couering his colour, blushing one while, and loking pale another, fraught wholly with feare, hope, & shame, seeking that carefully which he seemeth to flie, and yet doubtfully dreading not to finde it, to laugh sildome, to sigh often, to burne in colde, and freeze in heate, to be crossed altogether with contraries, which beesignes not onely of follie, but of phrensie. Who shall excuse Hercules, handling so carefully the distaffe of Omphale, or Salomon for combring himselfe with so many Concubines, Annibal in submitting himselfe to his Loue,

Aristotle in obeying Hermia, and Socrates in yelding to Aspasia, and many other which we see daily to bee so blinded, as they know not themselues: and what is the cause hereof, but follie? So that we see that it is she which maketh one to be so feared and redoubted, it is she that honoureth him, exalteth his name, and causeth him to be counted as a God. Further, whosoeuer loueth, must apply himselfe to the affection of his mistresse, although it be contrarie to his naturall constitution: if he be quiet, wise, and discreete, yet if his loue please to haue him chaunge his state, he must turne his stearne, and boile his salle, to goe with another winde. Zethius and Amphion could not agree, for because the delight of the one was a despight to the other, vntill Amphion left his Musicke. If the Ladie whom thou louest be couetous, thou must chaunge thy selfe into golde, and so fall into her bosome: if she be merrie, thou must bee pleasant: if sullen, thou must be sad. All the seruants and sutors to Atlanta were hunters, because she delighted in that sport. Many Gentlewomen to please their louers which were Poets, left the rocke and the néedle, and take in hand penners & books: now tell mee if these straunge Metamorphoses be not méere points of follie? Doe you thinke that a Souldier which goeth to the assault, marketh the trenches, thinketh of his enemies, or of a thousand harquebushes, wherof euerie one is sufficient to destroy him? No, he onely hopeth to win the conquest, and doth not so much as once imagine the rest. He which first inuented sayling, doubted not of the perilous daungers: and hee that playeth, neuer thinketh to become a loser, yet are they all three in daunger to be slaine, drowned, and vndone. But what then? they neither do see, nor will see what is hurtfull vnto them. So we must coniecture the like of louers: for if they did see the dreadfull dangers, and the fearefull perils wherein they are, how they be deceiued and beguiled, they would neuer honour loue as God, but detest him as a Diuell, and so should the kingdom of loue be destroyed, which

now is gouerned by ignorance, carelesnesse, hope & blindenesse, which are all the handmaids of Folly. Remaine in peace then fond Loue, and seeke not to breake the auncient league which is betweéne thée and Folly. For if thou doest, thy bowe shal be broken, thy darts shal be of no force, Contempteque iacent & sine luce faces.

¶ When Mercury had finished the defence of Follie, Iupiter seeing the gods to be diuersly affected, that some held with Cupid, and some with Folly, to decide the doubt he pronounced this sentence:

FOr the difficulty and importance of this difference and diuersitie of opinions, we haue remitted the deciding of it vntill thrée times seuen times and nine ages be past: in the meane while wee straightly commaund you to line friendly together, without offering iniury one vnto another. And Folly shall guide and conduct blinde Loue whither shée seemeth best: and for the restoring of his eyes, after we haue spoken with the Destinies, it shall be decréde.

FINIS.

AT LONDON,
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1608

Follie and Loue.

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